

Juniper and Pinyon Loop Trails Project

SCOPING REPORT



DOI-BLM-NV-C020-2012-0028-EA

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Carson City District
Sierra Front Field Office
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, NV 89701
775-885-6000

June 2013



BLM Seeks Second Round Input – Juniper and Pinyon Loop Trails

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Sierra Front Field Office is seeking input on a revised proposal by the Carson Valley Trails Association (CVTA) to construct two, non-motorized loop trails six miles in length each, along the westside of the Pine Nut Mountains, in Douglas County, Nevada.

The revised project consists of two, six-mile non-motorized loop trails as follows:

- *Juniper Loop* – utilizing an existing trailhead off of Stephanie Way; and
- *Pinyon Loop* – two trailhead locations are under consideration, near the intersection of Out-R-Way and Blue Bird Road, or on Pine Nut Road.

Neither of these loop trails would impact motorized use in the Pine Nut Mountains. The CVTA would enter into a long-term agreement with the BLM for trail maintenance.

Previously, in October 2012 the BLM had provided a 30-day public scoping period for the *Carson Valley Discover Trail*. A public workshop was held on November 14, 2012 at the Pinon Hills Elementary School. Approximately 120 people attended and the BLM received 61 comments.

Since that time the project has been revised from a 45-mile system of non-motorized trails to two, six-mile non-motorized loop trails. The project has been renamed the *Juniper and Pinyon Loop Trails Project*. Maps of the revised project area and other information is available at: http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field/blm_information/nepa.html

Privacy note: before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal information in your comment(s), you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment(s) to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

This scoping period closes on June 11, 2013. Only those substantive and relevant comments would be considered. Should you have any questions, or to submit your comments, contact: Brian Buttazoni, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, 5665 Morgan Mill Rd, Carson City, Nevada 89701 or email at: bbuttazoni@blm.gov. Comments can also be faxed to: 775-885-6147 attn: Brian Buttazoni. For more information call: 775-885-6004.

Summary of External Scoping Efforts

Between January and April 2013 revisions were made to the project, changing the proposal from a 45-mile non-motorized trail system into two, six-mile non-motorized loop trails. On May 13, 2013 the BLM announced a 15-day public scoping period for the revised Project. Letters were sent to approximately 118 residents adjacent to the Project area, and information was published on the Project's website. The BLM conducted a workshop for the public at the Carson City District Office on May 16, 2013. Eight people were in attendance. The BLM issued a news release on May 22, 2013. Articles for this scoping appeared in KTNV Channel 2 – Reno (web version) and *This Is Reno* (web version) on May 22, 2013 and in *The Record-Courier* on May 24, 2013. The BLM made a presentation to the Douglas County Commissioner's meeting on June 6, 2013. No public comments were accepted by the Commissioner's. The scoping period for the revised Project was extended for a total of 30-days until June 11, 2013. Twelve comments were submitted to the BLM.

Written Comments

Received by the

BLM

Note: To ensure the privacy of individuals that have submitted written comments, personal information such as name(s), address and email have been removed from the comment letters contained in this Scoping Report.



Juniper and Pinyon Loop Trails

Scoping Workshop

May 16, 2013



Your Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Would you like to be on the project mailing list?
 yes no no (already on the mailing list)

Comments:

We do not support Trailhead West (Option 1) for the following reasons:

- 1. Trailhead West would be located to near our residential homes (see map), hikers and horseback riders could wander into private properties.**
- 2. The Bluebird/Bar J neighborhood is located in a very high risk area for forest fires and we certainly do not wish to increase that risk by having a trailhead and trails this close to our homes.**
- 3. Trailhead West will be located on a very dangerous curve at the point where Out-R Way and Bluebird Rd. meet, the vision is not good as well because of the elevation where Out -R Way intersects Bluebird Rd.**

We support Trailhead East (Option 2), we feel this would be safer for all concerned and many trails already exist without establishing additional trails.



Comments are due May 27, 2013

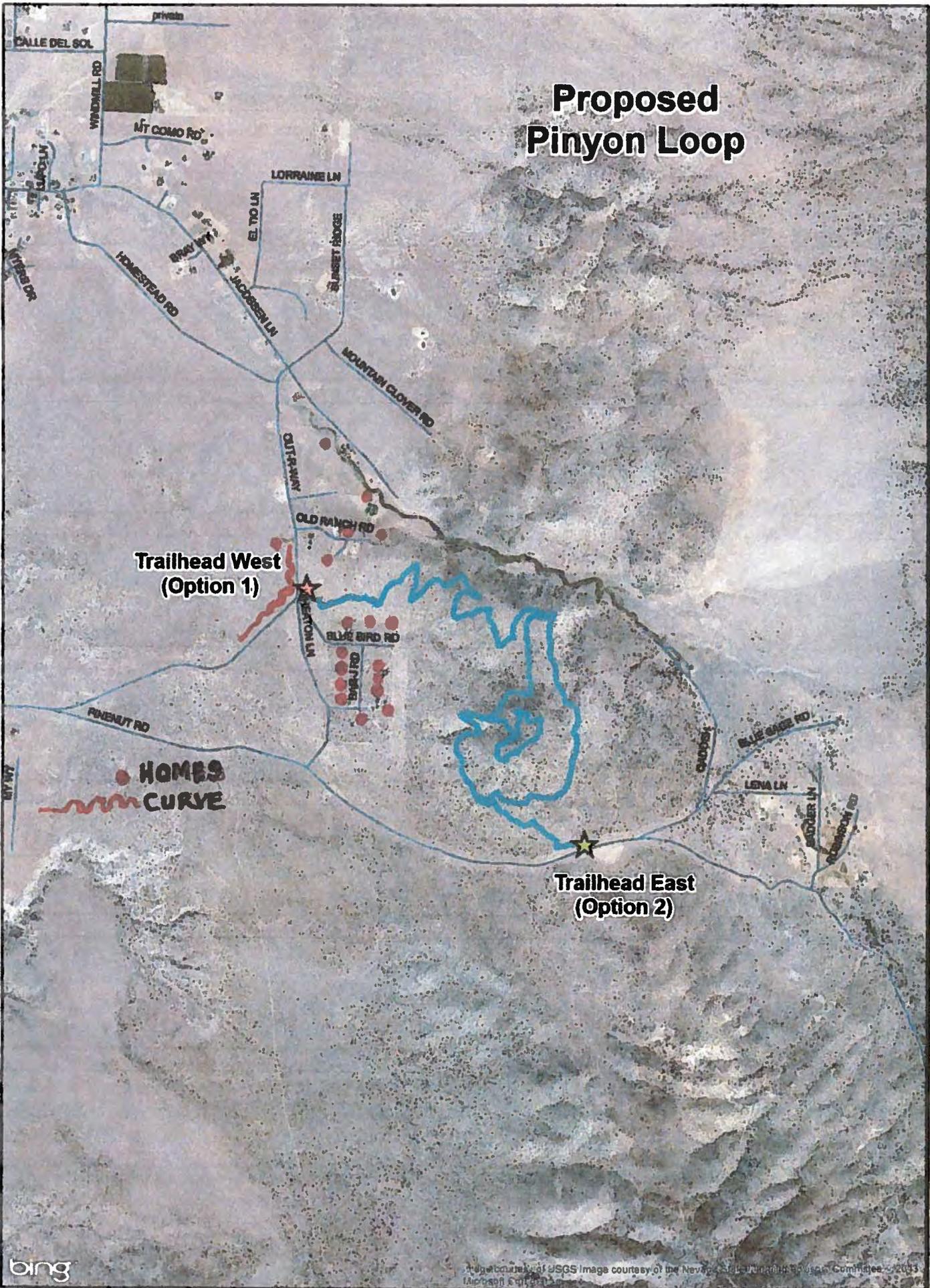
Submit completed forms to:
BLM, Sierra Front Field Office
Attn: Brian Buttazoni
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, Nevada 89701

RECEIVED

MAY 28 2013

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Proposed Pinyon Loop





Buttazoni, Brian <bbuttazoni@blm.gov>

Carson Valley Discovery Trail

1 message

To: "bbuttazoni@blm.gov" <bbuttazoni@blm.gov>

Hello Brian,

My wife and I attended both workshops regarding the proposed Juniper and Pinyon Loop Trails. At the meetings and in the letters from BLM, it was indicated that we should submit comments to assist the BLM in evaluating the CVTA's proposal: "To assist the BLM in evaluating the CVTA's proposal and whether there are existing concerns or conflict of uses for the Carson Valley Discovery Trail project, your input is requested at this early stage."

In general, we see this project as an overall positive for the community. As residents of a neighborhood in close proximity to the proposed Pinyon Loop Trail, one of our primary concerns is protection of this beautiful and lightly touched part of the Pine Nut Mountains. It is an area that is already used casually by many respectful, quiet, tidy people. Since most of the terrain is wide open and gently sloped, this is one of the few easily accessible areas in the Pinenuts that doesn't have trails and significant impacts from people. Concentrating people, dogs, horses, and mountain bikes on one small hill in the Pinenuts instead of spreading out the impact may result in unintended damage to the area. However, in an effort to preserve this pristine area for the future, we realize that a carefully planned non-motorized trail may protect the area from higher impact uses someday, such as excessive dirt bike use, mining, or heavy tree cutting.

Build the Juniper Loop Trail First

On the Carson Valley Trails Association Web site they indicate that one of the loop trails would be constructed first and then the second would be built if the first is successful: "If approved, only one of the loop trails would be constructed to begin with. The approximate timeline to begin trail work could occur around 2014. If the first loop trail is successful upon completion and initial use, the second loop trail may also be constructed sometime afterward."

The proposed Juniper Loop Trail (off of Stephanie Way) should be built first, before building the proposed Pinyon Loop Trail. The first trail to be built will provide valuable information about trail use and management. Because the Juniper Loop Trailhead already exists and the proposed trail at this location would extend into open space away from existing homes, this trailhead would be much less likely to impact residents than would the proposed Pinyon Loop Trail. The information gathered from the Juniper Loop Trail could provide valuable information that could then be used to define improvements for the eventual installation of the Pinyon Loop Trail, which is located in a more fragile ecological area of the valley and also in closer proximity to existing homes.

Put the Pinyon Loop Trailhead on Pine Nut Road

If the proposed Pinyon Loop Trail is created in the future, the Pine Nut Road trailhead should be chosen instead of the Out-R-Way/Blue Bird Road trailhead for the following

reasons:

1. **Neighborhood School Bus Stop:** The intersection of Blue Bird and Out-R-Way is currently used by Douglas County School District as a bus stop for the neighborhood serving kindergarten through high school students. Although the trailhead won't be exactly at the intersection, we feel it is inappropriate to place a public trailhead so close to a school bus stop. It will introduce strangers to our children's school routine and create an unnecessary and significant risk. Currently, if any suspicious cars are parked near the bus stop they stand out and are noticed by the bus driver and children. There aren't any homes with a view of this intersection so the only people that could see the kids getting off the bus would be the strangers in the proposed trail parking lot. Locating the trailhead on Pine Nut Road, however, would not have any impact any neighborhood routines or security.
2. **Noise:** Adding a parking lot at Out-R-Way/Blue Bird Road, right between two quiet neighborhoods and very close to several homes, could create unnecessary conflict. In general, the area is currently so quiet that sound carries extremely well. Loud car stereos, loud people, and barking dogs may have more of an impact than expected. This could easily be avoided by implementing the Pine Nut Road Trailhead option since it is not as close to homes.
3. **Overnight Camping:** Even though camping at the proposed trailhead will not be permitted, we are concerned that it will occur anyway or even be tolerated. This is what we have observed at the Single Tree Access on Pine Nut Road, at which overnight camping in vehicles or in tents does occur. This type of activity would be likely to result in increased evening noise and increase the risk of accidental fire in the pinion and juniper forest surrounding the trailhead. For this reason, it would be best to create the trailhead on Pine Nut Road, which farther away from existing homes.
4. **Fire Risk:** Having the trail head nestled between two neighborhoods with sagebrush and heavy Pinion and Juniper forest will add additional fire risk to an already risky fire situation.
5. **Off-Road Motorized Vehicles:** Dirt bikers may use the large parking lot as a take-off point, even if they don't use the new trail. This could increase the dirt bike and quad traffic next to this residential area, especially on Weaton Road. The Pine Nut Road Trailhead would be a better location because it isn't as close to houses and that area already has some heavily used dirt bike trails nearby.

Route of Proposed Pinyon Loop Trail

The letter sent out on May 10th indicated that the BLM was going to prepare an EA to evaluate the potential effects of trail construction and maintenance. We have the following concerns regarding the proposed Pinyon Loop Trail route:

Do you have knowledge of sensitive or unique resources within the proposed project area?

1. We have concerns about an area of the Pinyon Loop Trail that cuts across a narrow box canyon on the west side of the mountain. The trail and people/horses could permanently damage the steep slopes and the old weathered juniper growth that has survived in near pristine condition to date. This part of the trail should be re-routed further up the slope of the canyon to minimize the damage done by the trail.

2. On the east mountain top where the two loops meet between the 5800 and 6000 ft topographic lines and "dimple" out to the west, this area (and especially west of it) is very fragile. There are many old weathered Juniper and Pinion trees along with some thin flaking shale rock formations along this narrow ridge that pushes out from the main mountain to the west. The trail should be routed to avoid damage to these beautiful, unique, and sensitive areas. We can E-mail photos if needed.

3. In general new mountain bike trails tend to drop off the high points of existing trails. The difficulty of making new trails up hill has partially stopped the spread of new trails. A high horizontal ridge trail like this seems to be a bit of an invitation to drop off trail and form new downhill trails. In this area a new set of tracks can last 10 years. How will we protect these beautiful slopes from being covered with unauthorized trails?

4. As requested in my November 26 comments, we would like to have input on the trail route to minimize any negative impacts to this sensitive and fragile area. We would also like to review the EA when it is complete.

Thank you for considering our input.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.



Buttazoni, Brian <bbuttazoni@blm.gov>

Proposed Pinyon Loop Trail

1 message

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
To: bbuttazoni@blm.gov
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Buttazoni,

I learned about the proposed Pinyon Loop Trail from a BLM letter dated May 10, 2013 announcing a public workshop May 16, only six days after the *mailing* (not *receipt*) of the letter. I received it too late to attend. I understand that only 8 people did attend. Since a workshop last October drew over 100, the low attendance was quite likely due to the inadequate notification. This should not be.

The letter gave the impression that the construction of the Pinyon Loop was already effectively approved, with the only open issue the location of the trailhead. So far as I am aware, the only public input (other than written comments) has been the October workshop on a more grandiose Discovery Trail proposal (at which there was no opportunity for public comment) and the May 16 meeting. This gives the impression that the matter is being decided in unannounced negotiations between the BLM and the Carson Valley Trails Association (CVTA).

This should not be. The CVTA does not represent everyone who enjoys nature. All interested parties should have the opportunity to participate. The opportunity to submit written comments is not enough. Who knows if they are even read?

The only comments cited in the document recording the May 16 meeting, Workshop_PPT.pdf, were irrelevant comments (such as protests that public funds should not be spent on the trail, whereas there is no proposal for using public funds). No relevant or opposing comments were cited. The impression given is that the only objections to the trail were silly. So far as I know, no one other than officials of the CVTA has had the opportunity to participate in a back-and-forth exchange of views with the BLM.

Attached in file PLoopTrail is a comment. Is there any way for citizens to access all written comments received on the proposed Pinyon and Juniper Loop Trails, as well as the previously proposed Discovery Trail?

Sincerely,

 PLoopTrail.pdf
39K

Comment on proposed Pinyon Loop Trail

June 5, 2013

The thrust of this comment will be that the proposed Pinyon Loop Trail is an ill-advised project which has no apparent advantages and several serious disadvantages.

The terrain through which the proposed trail passes has the character of wilderness, yet is easily accessible. The construction of a trail will do nothing to make it more accessible, yet will largely destroy its present charm as a semi-wilderness.

The terrain is a hill rising about 500' from Pine Nut Rd., and extending about a mile north to an east-west canyon. The summit is a north-south ridge.

There are literally dozens of feasible hiking routes to the ridge. The grades are gentle, and the vegetation sparse enough that trails are completely unnecessary. I walk up to the ridge every few days in the warm months, taking different cross-country routes. It is an easy walk.

The hill can easily be hiked from three sides: east, south, and west. Only the north side descending to the canyon is too steep for comfortable walking.

Before I bought my house near the hill, I was living in an apartment in the Gardnerville Ranchos, miles from the hill. I discovered it by accident, hiking up from the Pine Nut Rd. (south) side. It was an easy hike. (At the time I was 62.) I thought nothing of it. In particular, I didn't think anything like: "How nice it would be if someone built a trail to the ridge!" The point I am trying to make is that a trail would be superfluous, offering no advantage, while destroying much of the wilderness character of the area.

Also, there is *already* an established trail to the ridge much wider than a normal hiking trail. It is an unpaved extension of Bluebird Rd. There are also jeep roads from Pine Nut Rd. to the south summit. Another trail would simply duplicate these access routes.

There is an appearance that the decision to allow the trail may have been effectively already made, with only token consideration of public comment. I learned about the proposed Pinyon Loop Trail (as opposed to an earlier more grandiose "Discovery Trail" proposal, which included the Pinyon Loop) a short time ago from a BLM letter dated May 10, 2013, announcing a May 16 Public Workshop. I received this letter after the workshop. Had I been notified in time, I would have attended. I have heard that only eight people attended. Given that a previous workshop last fall drew over a hundred, it seems likely that the poor attendance was because of inadequate notification.

I fear that the proposal may be an unfortunate *fait accompli*. That is the impression that I get from the BLM letter. Even if so, the letter indicates that at least the location of the trailhead is still under active consideration.

Of the two possibilities under consideration, the Pine Nut Rd. trailhead would be preferable. There are no houses there, so there would be no disruption to an established neighborhood, unlike the Bluebird alternative. (Incidentally, I do not live in that neighborhood, my house being 1/2 mile away, but people who do live there have expressed concern.)

I am sad that the trail may be a *fait accompli*, pushed through by a well-meaning but misguided group. The proposed trail would largely destroy what I value about the hill—the peace and quiet and its wilderness feeling. Instead there will be trail signs, trash, and animal poop concentrated along the trail. Right now, there are no real trails on the north portion of the hill, and horse manure, etc. is dispersed so widely over the hill that one hardly ever encounters much.

I suspect that there may be a tendency for the BLM to regard the proposed trail as a free “improvement” because it would be constructed and funded privately by a civic group. I urge the BLM to resist this urge. Pushing an unnecessary trail through this relatively unspoiled place would not be an improvement! It would be something like an offer to put a billboard on your front lawn, free of all charge! I urge the Bureau of Land Management to reconsider.

At a minimum, it should provide adequate notification for public comment. These are public lands, which should be managed for the benefit of the public. There will always be competing interests, but all should be heard. There is an appearance that the BLM is listening more to one organized group than to individuals who value the hill and have been taking care of it for years (e.g., removing the odd bit of trash, which fortunately is currently fairly rare).

So far as I am aware, although written comments have been solicited, no meaningful opportunity for public debate has been provided. There is an impression that the matter is being decided in unannounced negotiations between the BLM and the Carson Valley Trails Association (CVTA). I hope that this is not because the BLM is under the impression that the CVTA speaks for all who may want to enjoy the unspoiled beauty of the hill.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

P.S. The document “Workshop_PPT.pdf” on the BLM’s website includes views from the hill looking west, north, and east. The west and north views are easily recognizable, but the alleged east view does not correspond to anything I have ever seen from there. The dominant feature to the east is Mount Siegel, which is quite distinctive and clearly not in the photo. A neighbor agrees that the photo was not taken from the hill.



Buttazoni, Brian <bbutazoni@blm.gov>

FW: BLM Seeks Second Round Input on Revised Carson Valley Discover Trail

1 message

Mark Freese <markfreese@ndow.org>
To: "Buttazoni, Brian" <bbutazoni@blm.gov>

Tue, Jun 11, 2013 at 2:42 PM

Brian,

We recommend signs at trailheads includes advising of cougars/bears in the area, and recommend people use bear resistant food containers if camping. We also recommend the BLM install bear resistant trash receptacles at trailheads.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Mark Freese

Western Region Supervising Habitat Biologist

Nevada Department of Wildlife

1100 Valley Road

Reno, NV 89512

P: (775) 688-1145

F: (775) 688-1889

"...I feel that the high tension at which the average man has been living is wrecking entirely too many nervous systems. Hunting and fishing is the best nerve tonic I know, and I believe that a greater opportunity for the average citizen to engage in this type of outdoor recreation would greatly promote both the health and happiness of our people." A. Willis Robertson

This message is intended only for the named recipient. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited.

From: Lisa Ross [mailto:lross@blm.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 8:39 AM
To: lross@blm.gov
Cc: BLM_NV_AIIPAO; BLM_NV_SLT
Subject: BLM Seeks Second Round Input on Revised Carson Valley Discover Trail

BLM Nevada News

Carson City District Office No. CCDO 2013-37

For Release: May 22, 2013

Contact: Lisa Ross, lross@blm.gov, (775) 885-6107

BLM Seeks Second Round Input on Revised Carson Valley Discover Trail

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Sierra Front Field Office is seeking input on a revised proposal by the Carson Valley Trails Association (CVTA) to construct two, non-motorized loop trails six miles in length each, along the west side of the Pine Nut Mountains in Douglas County, Nevada. Written comments will be accepted through June 11, 2013.

The revised project consists of two, six-mile non-motorized loop trails as follows:

- Juniper Loop – utilizing an existing trailhead off of Stephanie Way; and
- Pinyon Loop – two trailhead locations are under consideration, near the intersection of Out-R-Way and Blue Bird Road, or on Pine Nut Road.

Neither of these loop trails would impact motorized use in the Pine Nut Mountains. The CVTA would enter into a long-term agreement with the BLM for trail maintenance.

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-BLM-

Lisa Ross

Public Affairs Specialist

Bureau of Land Management

Carson City District

5665 Morgan Mill Road

Carson City, NV 89701

Office: 775-885-6107

Fax: 775-885-6147

Email: lross@blm.gov

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" It's better to be boldly decisive and risk being wrong than to agonize at length and be right too late.....MARILYN MOATS KENNEDY



Buttazoni, Brian <bbuttazoni@blm.gov>

Juniper/Pine nut/Loop Trails

1 message

Mon, May 20, 2013 at 11:43 AM

To: bbuttazoni@blm.gov

Hi Brian,

Finally getting around to putting in writing some of the comments I offered at the meeting the other night. I should point out that I am very familiar with the area covered by the Pinyon Loop trail and so my comments are directed primarily towards that area.

First, in general, I'm in agreement with the idea of a greater presence by the BLM in the area of the Pinenuts covered in your presentation. But I must reiterate my concern over the almost complete lack of BLM involvement over the past 20 years I am aware of, and my skepticism over the ability and commitment of BLM management to make the necessary changes to accomplish the goals of the proposed trail system.

My critique of the current plan centers around two items: trail head parking and motorized trail use.

Trailhead Parking:

As I pointed out there are two concerns with option 1; Traffic safety and nearby presence of occupied dwellings. Driving North on Out R Way there is a small but obvious rise in elevation coupled with a significant left bend in the road which definitely obstructs visibility of traffic entering the road from the proposed parking area. Having lived at the end of Bluebird and driven this road for 20 years I am well aware of this situation. With respect to the occupied dwellings I think all of us have no problem with the trails as such, but fail to see why the trailhead needs to be so close to our houses when option 2 is so readily available. As I pointed out there is a natural drainage gully which takes off from the parking area and as it angles up the hill cuts across the corner of my property which makes a very convenient short cut, particularly coming down the hill. I would like to believe the BLM is a good neighbor and considered this possibility as I have posted the corner of my lot but can't afford the cost of the necessary fence.

Motorized Trail Use:

I think most of the BLM staff involved in this project are well aware of the well worn and frequently used dirt bike trail up to, along the ridge, and down towards trail head parking option 2. There is also frequent 4 wheel traffic up past the end of Bluebird, crossing the proposed trail, and down the other side of the ridge. It would seem the options to prevent motorized traffic on the proposed trail would be to close the area to motorized traffic or to route the proposed trail around the existing track and create some new trails. The first would probably not be well received with the dirt bikes and the second hardly makes sense considering how close the trails would be to each other or to drop the hiking trail down off the ridge resulting in an elevation change of 200 to 300 feet. On the subject of motorized traffic I would like to make a rather radical suggestion. Why doesn't the BLM take charge of the situation for once and just prohibit motorized traffic in the area. This would be north of Pinenut Road, West/South of Pinenut Creek, and East of Out R Way/Wheaton. Some exceptions would probably be necessary in the area where Out R Way crosses Pine Nut Creek. Considering the amount of traffic in this area and the miles and miles of trails south of Pinenut Road this wouldn't be much of a sacrifice to the motorized traffic. I know the dirt bikers, and 4 wheelers would look at this as an opening to close larger areas in the future but if a plan could be worked out that guaranteed no more closures in that area south of Pine Nut road provided they police themselves in not creating any more trails in that area. I don't think this would be anymore unrealistic than it is to rely on voluntary compliance in not riding on the new loop trails you plan on creating. Think about it. Also, I would be glad to provide you with a quite accurate map of the trails south of PineNut road to support my

observation that there are many miles of trails in the area that would still be available to motorized traffic.

One last thought:

Apparently BLM has recently authorized or at least ignored firewood cutting in the Pinyon Loop area which has resulted in considerable off trail 4 wheeling to cut and haul the firewood. How will this be handled?

Thanks for listening and reading this and if you would like any further clarification or comments just give a call or send an email.





Buttazoni, Brian <bbuttazoni@blm.gov>

Juniper Loop and Pinion Loop Trail Comments

1 message

[Redacted]

Tue, May 21, 2013 at 8:24 AM

To: bbuttazoni@blm.gov

Good Day Brian:

We wish to express our strong support to construct each of the loop trails discussed at the May 16, 2013 workshop. This scaled back version of the Carson Valley Discovery Trail Project is a reasonable alternative that would allow the trails to be constructed in a timely fashion with resources available to the BLM and Carson Valley Trails Association during the estimated time frame contemplated to do so.

In addition to our comments we submitted following the November 14, 2012 which we believe are still relevant to this revised project, we would like to add the following observations:

We believe that if constructed these two loops would provide excellent opportunities for equestrian trail users. While equestrian use is authorized in most of the Carson Valley Trails System, trailhead parking can be challenging and many of the trails are steep and narrow causing anxiety for many potential equestrian users. The two loop trails would provide for adequate trailhead parking for horse trailers as well as more gentle grades (mostly 5% or less) that are more attractive to less experienced equestrian riders.

We believe that the areas selected for the loops will minimize conflicts between various users of the public land thereby allowing everyone to reasonably enjoy their outdoor recreational experience.

It was a pleasure meeting you at the meeting and discussing this project. We thank you for the opportunity to comment and for the thoughtful hard work performed by BLM staff and CVTA volunteers in considering it.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Buttazoni, Brian <bbuttazoni@blm.gov>

Juniper and Pinyon Loop Trails

1 message

[Redacted]

Tue, May 28, 2013 at 2:51 PM

To: bbuttazoni@blm.gov

I fully support the proposed trails in the Pine Nut Mountains.

—

Happy Trails



"Our destiny changes with our thoughts; we shall become what we wish to become, do what we wish to do, when our habitual thoughts correspond with our desires." Orison Sweet Marden

[REDACTED]

May 20, 2013

Brian Buttazoni
Planning and Environmental Coordinator
5665 Morgan Mill Rd.
Carson City, NV 89701

RECEIVED

MAY 22 2013

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Dear Mr. Buttazoni,

It is my understanding from my neighbor [REDACTED] that your agency is considering establishing a six mile "Pinyon Loop Trail" at either the intersection of Out Our Way and Blue Bird Rd. or east of our residences on Pine Nut 2 Rd. It is also my understanding this proposed trail is at the urging of the Carson Valley Trails Association.

A trail in the Pine Nuts, while supposedly restricted to equine riders and pedestrians, is not going to keep out quads or motor bike riders no matter how many signs are erected. Motorized users of the Pine Nuts have a long history of ignoring the current use restrictions as evidenced by the huge amount of trash abandoned there and the additional "trails" they cut through the natural habitat. We have never seen nor heard of any enforcement of the current BLM laws regarding these issues. It is our understanding there is only one sworn officer assigned to the BLM in Northern Nevada.

If you folks are intent on following through on this proposal, please do not establish the trail head at the intersection of Out Our Way and Blue Bird Rd. for the following reasons:

There is a school bus stop at the corner of Out Our Way and Blue Bird Rd.

This intersection is at the top of a rise of Out Our Way with a sharp turn approximately 90 degrees turning northbound.

Drivers routinely now exceed the speed limit by 10 to 15 miles an hour while making this turn.

The less objectionable trail head would be east of our track of homes on Pine Nut 2 Rd.

[REDACTED]



May 23, 2013

Brian Buttazoni
Planning and Environmental Coordinator
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, NV 89701

RECEIVED

MAY 28 2013

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Re: 1610 (LLNVC02000)

Dear Mr. Buttazoni:

My neighbors, my wife and I are pleased with the revised scope of the proposed Carson Valley Discovery Trail. It appears that the BLM actually seriously considered our input. However, we still have concerns, some from our previous letters and some new with the revised proposal.

It was unclear to me at the “workshop,” from you and Mr. Thomas, whether comments previously submitted would be considered under the revised project. Therefore, I wish to incorporate by reference the contents of my letters of November 14, 2012 and November 20, 2012. However, some comments contained therein are no longer relevant and I will try to save you some time by citing those I think still need to be considered.

Initially, allow me to reiterate our overall view that this trail system is really unnecessary. There are several access points from public ways on the east side of the valley. The east side is not like the west side. Further, there are a multitude of two track trails that traverse the Pine Nuts; of course there are single tracks also, but hikers, mountain bikes and stock can use both without trouble. It would seem then, that adding additional trails will only serve to further the intrusions into the environment, and if they are maintained as non-motorized, simply exclude some public users. We have not encountered conflicts in the Pine Nuts between motorized and non-motorized users. As consequence, we support open trails without limitation on motorized use.

We are still concerned with the threat of wildfire. Of the five rangeland fires over the last two seasons, every one commenced during daylight hours. Two were

May 23, 2013
Mr. Buttazoni
Page Two

lightning strikes and three were human caused. Attracting more people to the area will enhance the chance of fires. Having people encouraged to be in the area during the day should raise your concerns about evacuating them should a fire occur. The fire threat and prophylactic measures need to be considered.

Archeological/Cultural Evaluations must be made at all the proposed trailheads, along the trails and for a reasonable distance to either side of the trails. This is especially true at the proposed Pine Nut #2 and Out-R-Way sites as they are within proximity of the discovery location of several dinosaur bones a few years back.

Steps need to be taken to locate and make safe all mines, shafts and glory holes in the area of the loop trails. Some of this has been done in recent years, but thoroughness has not been accomplished. I was on Douglas Search and rescue when we pulled a dog from a glory hole south of Pine Nut #2. So they are still there.

I am still concerned over toilet facilities at the trailheads. Seeing sailing toilet paper is repulsive.

I will now turn to our concerns for the Pinyon Loop trailheads and trail. If a trailhead is approved, we favor the Pine Nut #2 site over the Out-R-Way site. Simply, it keeps the trailhead further away from homes and our neighbors. We believe maintaining the distance between homes and trails/trailheads is appropriate. As we expressed during the "workshop" most of us live out here to distance ourselves from populations; bringing them to us molests our solitude. If the Out-R-Way site is selected, the trail will by necessity transverse housing and private land in order to access the ridge to the east; not a good thing.

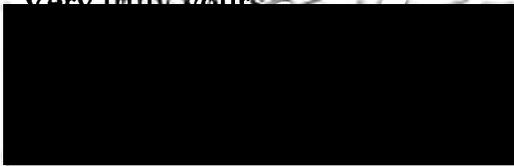
We encourage the BLM to locate trailhead sites where vegetation has already been disturbed rather than selecting sites where sage or pinenuts or junipers must be uprooted. We observed that the photo displayed at the "workshop" of the trailhead site was to the south of Pine Nut #2 and that a comment was made that the actual trailhead site was across the road. The foreground of the photo showed a lone tree with bare ground on the south side of the road, but the proposed site had much vegetation which would have to be removed. Having and maintaining vegetation

May 23, 2013
Mr. Buttazoni
Page Three

on the east side of the Valley is difficult enough without purposely destroying it; further, disturbed soil attracts non-native species and noxious weeds which prevent the re-establishment of sage and other desirable plants.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. We look forward to reviewing the EA when it is ready.

Very truly yours,





Buttazoni, Brian <bbuttazoni@blm.gov>

Carson Valley Discovery Trail

1 message

Mon, May 13, 2013 at 9:37 PM

To: "[REDACTED]" <bbuttazoni@blm.gov>

Dear Mr. Bryan Buttazoni

Re: 1610 (LLNVC02000) Pinyon Loop Trail

This trail has been designated as a Non-Motorized trail.

The design and layout of the trail will be instrumental in Discouraging the Motorized use of these trails.

In the design of the Pinyon Loop Trail you are proposing two trail heads. The problems with the Pinyon Loop proposed trail heads are as follows;

1. By proposing two trail heads East and West, each with street access in different areas this would be encouraging motorized vehicles to use this trail as a short-cut in order to get to other areas.
2. Having the East Trail Head only, would be the best choice for the following reasons.
 - a. The East Trail Head has plenty of room for parking, turning around and year around access.
 - b. Anyone using the Pinyon Loop could park their car and use the trail with complete peace of mind.
3. Having the West Trail Head presents the following problems.
 - a. Access to the West Trail Head does not offer year around use because the area and roads are not maintained.
 - b. Because of narrow roads and private property in the immediate vicinity the West Trail Head has the potential for many problems.

In summation, having the East Trail Head only would provide everyone the best assurance that the trail would be used for Non-Motorized hiking and equestrian . I have visited the East Trail Head and find that visiting the Pinyon Loop Trail from this trail head will provide a very positive experience

Sincerely
[REDACTED]

RECEIVED

MAY 28 2013

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Mr. Brian Buttazoni

5665 Morgan Hill Road,

Carson City, Nevada 89701

The following comments are being submitted in response to the Friday, May 24, 2013 RECORD COURIER article on the proposed NON-VEHICLE PINE NUT TRAIL PROPOSAL:

1. Any such PINE NUTS TRAIL SHOULD BE A **MULTIPLE USE TRAIL, IF IT IS TO BE FUNDED WITH TAXPAYER'S MONEY. WE ARE STRONGLY AGAINST A TAXPAYER FUNDED TRAIL THAT SERVES BUT ONE SMALL SELFISH GROUP OF HIKERS.** THIS ARGUMENT IS ENHANCED IF YOU CONSIDER THAT VERY FEW HIKERS USE THE PINE NUTS AREA ANYWAY; THE MAJORITY OF USERS USE VARIOUS MOTOR VEHICLES AND THEY PAY THE LARGEST SHARE OF THE COSTS OF THE SPECTRUM OF TRAIL USERS. MOTOR VEHICLE TRAIL USERS ARE VERY TOLERANT OF HIKERS NOT ON MOTOR VEHICLES; HIKERS ARE VERY INTOLERANT OF THOSE WHO OPT TO USE MOTOR VEHICLES. IT IS AN INCREASINGLY CROWDED WORLD AND THE HIKERS HAD BETTER LEARN TO SHARE THE WORLD WITH OTHERS, PARTICULARLY WHEN THOSE OTHERS ARE PAYING A HIGHER SHARE OF THE COST OF THE TRAIL THAN THE HIKERS. HIKERS SHOULD ALSO BE TOLERANT OF VEHICLE AND HORSE RIDERS AND GOVERNMENT USE FOR FIRE FIGHTING ETC.

2. HISTORY SHOWS THE PINE NUTS ARE A WILD FIRE PRONE AREA. **IF ANY NEW PINE NUT TRAILS ARE BUILT WITH TAXPAYER FUNDING, THE TRAILS SHOULD BE, WHERE EVER POSSIBLE, CAPABLE OF PASSING FIRE FIGHTING VEHICLES AND BE DESIGNED TO AID FIRE FIGHTERS.** WHILE MANY FIRES IN THE PINE NUTS ARE NOT CAUSED BY HUMANS, THE MORE PEOPLE WHO GO THERE, THE LARGER WILL BE THE PERCENTAGE OF HUMAN CAUSED FIRES! THE INCREASED RISK OF WILD FIRES CAUSED BY ADDITIONAL HIKERS MUST BE PAID FOR BY ALL THE TAX PAYERS. ONE SMALL GROUP OF HIKERS UNFAIRLY IMPOSES GREATER RISK AND GREATER TAXES ON ALL TAX PAYERS WHO GET NO BENEFIT FROM THESE ADDITIONAL COSTS.

3. WITH ALL THE EXISTING MULTIPLE USE TRAILS IN THE PINE NUTS, THE ADDITIONAL COST OF BUILDING ONE OR MORE LONG TRAILS AND MAINTAINING **THESE TRAILS CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED FOR A SINGLE SMALL GROUP OF THE POPULATION! THE PROPOSED SINGLE USE TRAILS SIMPLY CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED!**

5/24/2013



Juniper and Pinyon Loop Trails Scoping Workshop



May 16, 2013

Your Name: _____

Mailing Address _____

Would you like to be on the project mailing list?

yes no no (already on the mailing list)

Comments:

- ① Is it possible to have the trail open - available to go on ~~at~~ Full moon and or early ^{PRK} sunrise hike
- ② Have signs in parking zone forbidding OHV parking + off loading
- ③ Parts potty + dog waste disposal can with plastic bags available like at Sutter (FHY) trail head
+ trash can available
- ④ target starters?

Comments are due May 27, 2013

Submit completed forms to:
BLM, Sierra Front Field Office
Attn: Brian Buttazoni
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, Nevada 89701



Juniper and Pinyon Loop Trails Scoping Workshop



May 16, 2013

Your Name: [Redacted]

Mailing Address: [Redacted]

Would you like to be on the project mailing list?
 yes no no (already on the mailing list)

I think so!

Comments: Great Trails. I own 80 acres near Pinyon Loop trail. IF BLM does trails like Genoa, Tober Peak etc then it will be very nice. Please respect private land and work as partners. IF people sense Govt is going to just take over you will have nothing but resistance. I think the CV Trails Assoc. is a great partner with BLM and will preserve and keep select areas open and useable by public
Thanks for your work

[Redacted Signature]

Comments are due May 27, 2013

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BLM, Sierra Front Field Office
Attn: Brian Buttazoni
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, Nevada 89701



Juniper and Pinyon Loop Trails Scoping Workshop



May 16, 2013

Your Name:

[REDACTED]

Mailing Address:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Would you like to be on the project mailing list?

yes no no (already on the mailing list)

Comments:

I support the construction of both the Juniper and Pinyon Loop trails because each system offers different experiences for different user groups. The Juniper Loop will generally serve residents of Stephens Canyon while Pinyon Loop will provide a hike trail in a portion of Douglas County lacking those facilities plus, the scenic views from the Pinyon and Juniper Loop are highly scenic, providing vistas not otherwise readily accessible. Also regarding the new staging area on the Pinyon Loop, I consider impacts of motorized users using the parking area and require specific signage to hike/trail users only.

Comments are due May 27, 2013

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