



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Phoenix District

Hassayampa Field Office

21605 North 7th Avenue

Phoenix, Arizona 85027

www.blm.gov/az/



In Reply Refer to:
1614 (P010)
BCNRT

JAN 23 2010

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Hassayampa Field Office requests your participation in a public process to gather input on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Black Canyon National Recreation Trail (BCNRT).

The purpose of this effort is to initiate the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental analysis in order to implement decisions specific to the Black Canyon Management Unit and the Upper Agua Fria River Basin Management Unit for the BCNRT in accordance with the Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan (April 2010). See Map A enclosed. The need is to develop a comprehensive trail system centered on the BCNRT. This EA is for the non-motorized portion of the trail only.

The specific actions to be addressed either as the proposed action or within an alternative action for which we would like public comment are:

- to identify, analyze, build, and designate new single-use and multi-use, hiking, and equestrian routes for hikers, equestrian, mountain bicycles that can be linked to other trail systems and communities (RR-49, 55-56);
- to either reclaim, re-contour or design a new a non-motorized single track trail within the wilderness characteristics allocation at the Slate Creek Trail (WC-18);
- to analyze the development of parking, staging areas, and trailheads, as suitable for facilitating responsible use; ensuring resource protection, parking and unloading horses (RR-51, RR-62);
- to analyze for the development of at least eight trailheads and staging or camping areas near communities, with vehicle access points to serve the BCNRT and adjoining public lands for parking, picnicking, unloading horses which can include information on signs and kiosks, picnic tables, loading ramps and soil stabilization for dust abatement (RR-62-63). The eight currently undeveloped trailheads include:
 - Bob Bentley
 - Soap Creek
 - Glorianna

- Castle Creek
- Bumble Bee
- Hidden Treasure
- Drinking Snake
- Spring Valley (See map B for the location of the proposed trailheads.);
- to provide an assortment of non-motorized trail links east and west of Interstate 17 links with Agua Fria National Monument, Prescott and Tonto National Forests, Lake Pleasant Regional Park, the Castle Hot Springs area, the Great Western Trail and connections to all communities (RR-43 and RR-56), (See map C for proposed connector trails to be analyzed);
- to create a ¼ mile buffer on the BCNRT for public safety and developmental concerns (RR-24 and RR-61) (See map D for the buffer safety zone); and
- to analyze the effect of special recreation permits (SRPs) that should be authorized for commercial or competitive use, special use areas, organized group activities and events. In the analysis BLM will look at possible exclusive closures during events and protection of the public or resources during events.

You can make a difference by providing us with your ideas, comments, or concerns about the proposed project. The scoping comment period for the project will occur from issuance of this letter until March 8, 2013. There are three ways in which you can submit your comments on the proposed project:

- You may mail your comments to: BCNRT Environmental Assessment Project, ATTN: Kathleen Depukat, District Project Manager, BLM Hassayampa Field Office, 21605 North 7th Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85027.
- You may submit your comments electronically by sending them to: blm_az_pdo_bcnrt@blm.gov
- You may fax your comments to: Kathleen Depukat at 623-580-5580.

If you have any question about this project, please contact Kathleen Depukat, BLM Phoenix District Project at 623-580-5681, kdepukat@blm.gov or Mary Skordinsky, Hassayampa Field Office Recreation Specialist at 623-580-580-5586 or mkskordin@blm.gov .

Sincerely,

D. Remington Hawes
Field Manager

Enclosures

Black Canyon National Recreation Trail

Map A

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
PHOENIX DISTRICT OFFICE
HASSAYAMPA FIELD OFFICE



UPPER AGUA FRIA RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT UNIT

COPPER MOUNTAIN LOOP

MAYER

PRESCOTT NATIONAL FOREST

CORDES

Agua Fria National Monument

BUMBLE BEE

BLACK CANYON MANAGEMENT UNIT

TONTO NATIONAL FOREST

PROPOSED SLATE CREEK LOOP
6.2 MILES

BLACK CANYON CITY

NEW RIVER

Lake Pleasant Regional Park

74

BCNRT & MANAGEMENT UNITS

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| Management Units | BLM |
| Black Canyon National Recreation Trail | National Forest |
| Proposed Slate Creek Loop | State |
| Agua Fria N.M. | Private |
| | Local/State Parks |

Location



1:300,000
UTM Zone 12N, NAD 83

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the BLM makes no warranty, expressed or implied, as to the accuracy and expressly disclaims liability for the accuracy thereof.



Black Canyon National Recreation Trail

Map B

UNITED STATES
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PRESCOTT NATIONAL FOREST

Agua Fria National Monument

TONTO NATIONAL FOREST

PROPOSED SLATE CREEK LOOP
6.2 MILES

- ▲ Bob Bentley Trailhead
- ▲ Emery Henderson Trailhead
- ▲ Table Mesa Trailhead
- ▲ Black Canyon City Trailhead
- ▲ Soap Creek Trailhead
- ▲ Glorianna Trailhead
- ▲ Castle Creek Trailhead
- ▲ Bumble Bee Trailhead
- ▲ Hidden Treasure Trailhead
- ▲ Drinking Snake Trailhead
- ▲ Spring Valley Trailhead
- ▲ Big Bug Trailhead

BLACK CANYON TRAIL & PROPOSED TRAILHEADS

▲ Proposed Trailhead	BLM
▲ Existing Trailhead	National Forest
— Black Canyon National Recreation Trail	State
— Proposed Slate Creek Loop	Private
□ Agua Fria N.M.	Local/State Parks

Location

ARIZONA
FLAGSTAF
PHOENIX
TUCSON

1:300,000
UTM Zone 12N, NAD 83

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0 3 6 12 Miles

Lake Pleasant Regional Park

NEW RIVER

BUMBLE BEE

BLACK CANYON CITY

CORDES

MAYER

COPPER MOUNTAIN LOOP

69

17

12

11

10

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

1

Black Canyon National Recreation Trail

Map C

UNITED STATES
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PHOENIX DISTRICT OFFICE
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PRESCOTT NATIONAL FOREST

MAYER PROPOSED CONNECTOR ROUTE

PRESCOTT FOREST PROPOSED CONNECTOR ROUTE

COPPER MOUNTAIN LOOP

BADGER SPRINGS PROPOSED CONNECTOR ROUTE

Agua Fria National Monument

AGUA FRIA N.M. PROPOSED CONNECTOR ROUTE

TONTO NATIONAL FOREST

PROPOSED SLATE CREEK LOOP
6.2 MILES

HERITAGE PARK PROPOSED CONNECTOR ROUTE

BLACK CANYON CITY

NEW RIVER

Lake Pleasant Regional Park

- Bob Bentley Trailhead
- Emery Henderson Trailhead
- Table Mesa Trailhead
- Black Canyon City Trailhead
- Soap Creek Trailhead
- Glorianna Trailhead
- Castle Creek Trailhead
- Bumble Bee Trailhead
- Hidden Treasure Trailhead
- Drinking Snake Trailhead
- Spring Valley Trailhead
- Big Bug Trailhead

BLACK CANYON TRAIL & PROPOSED CONNECTOR ROUTES

Proposed Connector Routes	BLM
Black Canyon National Recreation Trail	National Forest
Proposed Slate Creek Loop	State
Agua Fria N.M.	Private
	Local/State Parks

Location

1:300,000
UTM Zone 12N, NAD 83

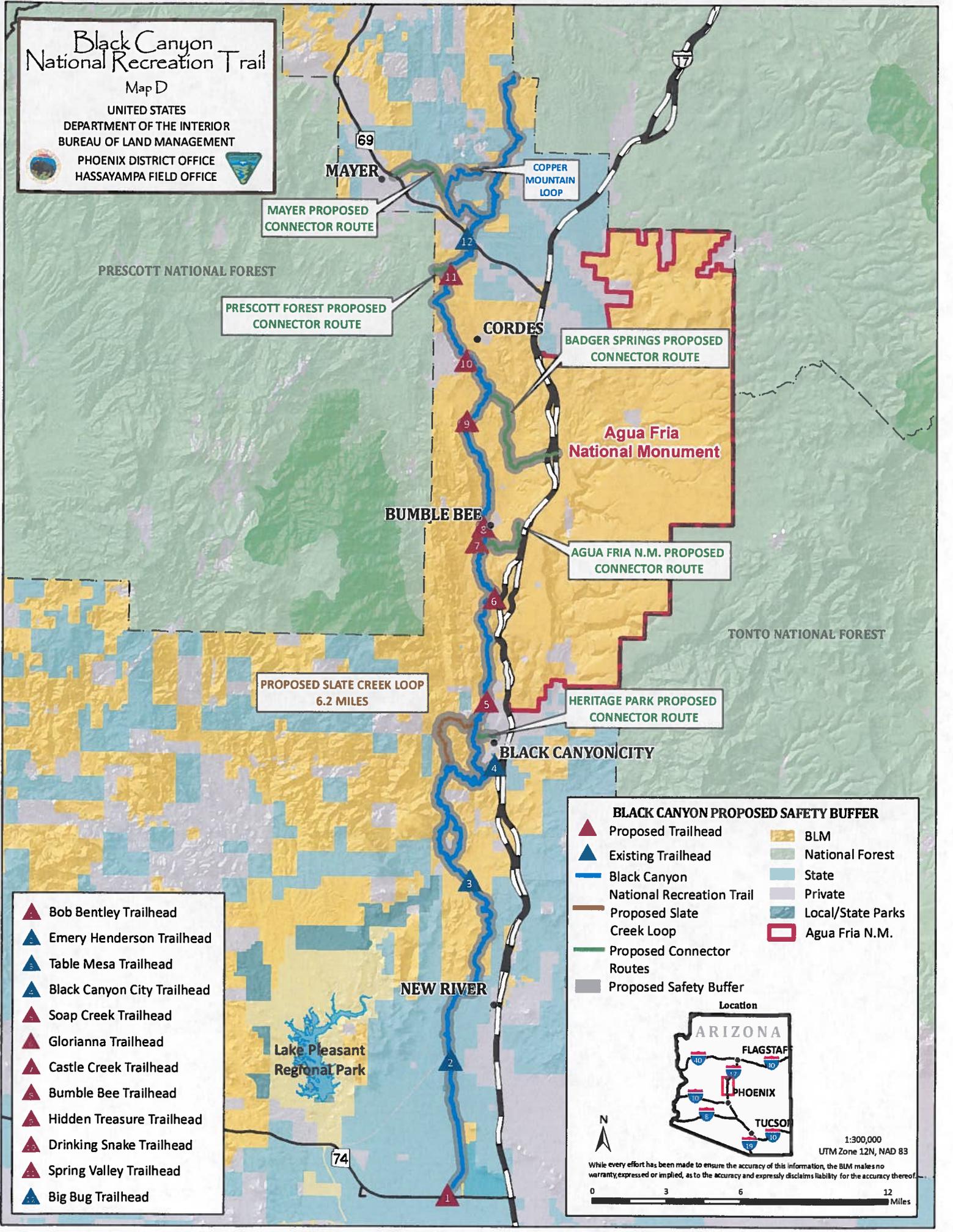
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0 3 6 12 Miles

Black Canyon National Recreation Trail

Map D

UNITED STATES
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- ▲ Bob Bentley Trailhead
- ▲ Emery Henderson Trailhead
- ▲ Table Mesa Trailhead
- ▲ Black Canyon City Trailhead
- ▲ Soap Creek Trailhead
- ▲ Glorianna Trailhead
- ▲ Castle Creek Trailhead
- ▲ Bumble Bee Trailhead
- ▲ Hidden Treasure Trailhead
- ▲ Drinking Snake Trailhead
- ▲ Spring Valley Trailhead
- ▲ Big Bug Trailhead

BLACK CANYON PROPOSED SAFETY BUFFER

▲ Proposed Trailhead	■ BLM
▲ Existing Trailhead	■ National Forest
■ Black Canyon National Recreation Trail	■ State
■ Proposed Slate Creek Loop	■ Private
■ Proposed Connector Routes	■ Local/State Parks
■ Proposed Safety Buffer	■ Agua Fria N.M.



1:300,000
UTM Zone 12N, NAD 83

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