

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
Maze Rock Art Site Trail and Trailhead Development Environmental Assessment

Agency: Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Strip Field Office and Vermilion Cliffs National Monument

Public Review and Comments Requested: This serves as the Notice of Public Comment Period for the Environmental Assessment (EA) DOI-BLM-AZ-A020-2015-0002-EA prepared for the proposed Maze Rock Art Site Trail and Trailhead Development project. Information about this project and copies of the EA and preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact determination can be obtained online at: http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/fo/arizona_strip_field.html or by contacting:

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The public review and comment period for this EA will extend for 15 days, beginning on June 23, 2015 and ending on July 7, 2015. Written comments on the EA must be received by BLM by close of business on July 7, 2015. Please address your comments to:

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Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EA and other related documents. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, 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 to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. If you wish to have your name or address withheld from public disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. Any determination by the BLM to release or withhold the names and/or addresses of those who comment will be made on a case-by-case basis. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. The BLM will make available for public review, in their entirety, all comments submitted by businesses or organizations, including comments by individuals in their capacity as an official or representative of a business or organization.

Project Summary: The proposed action analyzed in the EA is to authorize the construction of a trail and trailhead for the Maze Rock Art Site. The proposed project would improve access to the site, rehabilitate social trails while consolidating use to a single trail, and add educational interpretation. The proposed action is in conformance with the Arizona Strip Field Office Resource Management Plan (2008) and the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument Resource Management Plan (2008).

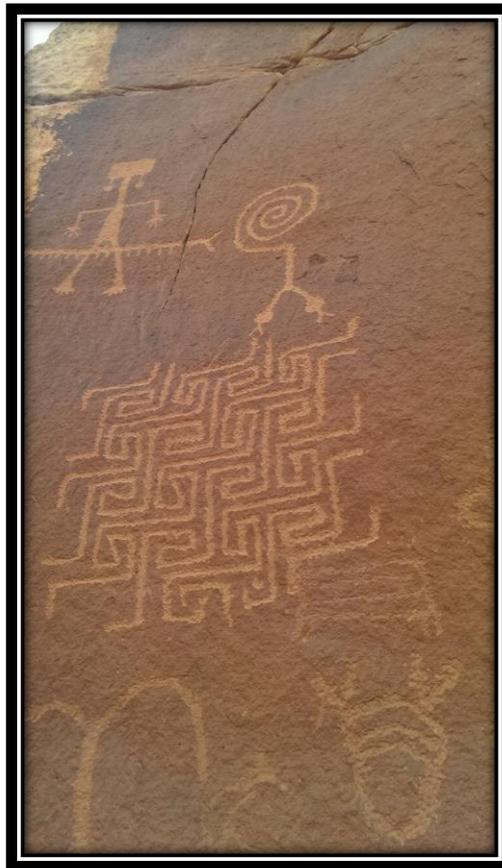
**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-AZ-A020-2015-0002-EA

June 2015

Maze Rock Art Site Trail and Trailhead Development

Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, Arizona Strip Field Office



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Table of Contents

Chapter 1 Introduction and Need for the Proposed Action.....	1
1.1 Introduction.....	1
1.2 Background.....	1
1.3 Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action	1
1.4 Conformance with BLM Land Use Plan(s)	2
1.5 Relationships to Statutes, Regulations, or other Plans	3
1.6 Identification of Issues	3
Chapter 2 Description of Alternatives	5
2.1 Introduction.....	5
2.2 Proposed Action- Alternative A.....	5
2.3 No Action- Alternative B.....	6
Chapter 3 Affected Environment	7
3.1 Introduction.....	7
3.2 Elements/ Resources of the Human Environment	7
3.3 General Setting.....	9
3.4 Recreation	9
3.5 Soils/Hydrologic Conditions.....	10
3.6 Vegetation.....	10
3.7 Visual Resources.....	10
3.8 Wilderness.....	11
Chapter 4 Environmental Impact	12
4.1 Recreation	12
4.1.1 Proposed Action Alternative A	12
4.1.2 No Action Alternative B	12
4.2 Soils/Hydrologic Conditions.....	13
4.2.1 Proposed Action Alternative A	13
4.2.2 No Action Alternative B	13
4.3 Vegetation.....	13
4.3.1 Proposed Action Alternative A	13
4.3.2 No Action Alternative B	14

4.4 Visual Resources.....	14
4.4.1 Proposed Action Alternative A	14
4.4.2 No Action Alternative B	14
4.5 Wilderness.....	14
4.5.1 Proposed Action Alternative A	14
4.5.2 No Action Alternative B	14
4.6 Cumulative Impacts	15
4.6.1 Recreation	15
4.6.2 Soils/Hydrologic Conditions.....	15
4.6.3 Vegetation.....	16
4.6.4 Visual Resources.....	16
4.6.5 Wilderness.....	16
Chapter 5 Persons, Groups, and Agencies Consulted	18
5.1 Summary of Public Participation	18
5.2 List of Preparers and Contributors	18
Chapter 6	20
6.1 References Cited	20
6.2 List of Acronyms	20
Appendices.....	21
Appendix A: Project Maps.....	22
Appendix B: Soil Maps.....	23
Appendix C: Visual Contrast Rating Worksheet	24
Appendix D: Design Features	26
Appendix E: Minimum Requirements Decision Guide (MRDG)	27

Maze Rock Art Site Trail and Trailhead Development

DOI-BLM-AZ-A020-2015-0002-EA

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

1.1 Introduction

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to disclose and analyze the environmental consequences of constructing a trailhead adjacent to House Rock Valley Road with a trail that would lead to the Maze Rock Art Site. The Maze Rock Art Site is a designated cultural public use site. The proposed trailhead and trail construction, signs, maintenance, and barriers/rehabilitation of the user-created trails would help resolve resource damage caused by existing social trails. Although the trailhead would be located outside the Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs (PCVC) Wilderness, portions of the trail would be within the designated wilderness. Therefore, as part of this analysis for the Maze Rock Art Site, a Minimum Requirements Decision Guide (MRDG) has been completed. This minimum requirements analysis determined the minimum tool(s) necessary to complete the trail construction (See Appendix E).

The EA is a site-specific analysis of potential impacts that could result with the implementation of a Proposed Action or alternatives to the Proposed Action. The EA assists the BLM in project planning and ensuring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and in making a determination as to whether any “significant” impacts could result from the analyzed actions. “Significance” is defined by NEPA and is found in regulation 40 CFR 1508.27. An EA provides evidence for determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a statement of “Finding of No Significant Impact” (FONSI). If the decision maker determines that this project has “significant” impacts following the analysis in the EA, then an EIS would be prepared for the project. If not, a Decision Record may be signed for the EA approving the selected alternative, whether the Proposed Action or another alternative. A Decision Record, including a FONSI statement, documents the reasons why implementation of the selected alternative would not result in “significant” environmental impacts (effects) beyond those already addressed in the 2008 Arizona Strip Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP) (BLM 2008a) and the 2008 Vermilion Cliffs National Monument RMP. (BLM 2008b)

1.2 Background

Public interest in accessing this locally known rock art site has created two parking areas with social trails to the Maze Rock Art Site. These two parking areas (approximately 0.2 miles apart) provide access to the site with social trails. The parking area to the south has been created in a drainage that is leading to resource degradation. The social trails from both parking areas have been created in a manner where water channels in the trail are causing increased erosion.

1.3 Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the proposed project is to designate and improve a trail and trailhead to access the Maze Rock Art Site. The need for the Proposed Action is to act and respond to the social

trailing from the House Rock Valley Road to the Maze Rock Art Site, to provide only one parking area and trailhead for information and access, to provide better access and education/information for the area and the rock art site, and to create a more sustainable place to park.

Social trails have developed from House Rock Valley Road (Route 1065) to the Maze Rock Art Site. The social trails are creating erosion and resource damage when navigating up the hillside to the top of the ridge. Once over the ridge, the trail braids across a sagebrush flat to the next ridge where the rock art site is located. A small trail has been constructed from the end of the sagebrush flat upslope to the rock art site.

The southern parking area is located near the Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness boundary just off the east side of House Rock Valley Road (Route 1065). The area is located in a drainage which leaves ruts in the parking area that is difficult to navigate, makes access difficult for low clearance vehicles, and the vegetation is thick allowing for minimal parking. A user-created trail has been developed from this parking area and would be closed and rehabilitated with barriers and appropriate seed mixes after the proposed trail and trailhead are developed.

The proposed trail would eliminate much of the social trailing from the southern parking area. The proposed trail would also create a shorter access route to the rock art site.

1.4 Conformance with BLM Land Use Plan(s)

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument Resource Management Plan (RMP), approved in 2008 and the Arizona Strip Field Office Resource Management Plan also approved in 2008. The Proposed Action is consistent with the following RMP decisions contained within these plans:

Vermilion Cliffs National Monument RMP

- LA-CL-02: The following additional sites would be allocated to public use: Maze Site... (p. 2-44)
- IMPL-CL-04: “The Maze” Rock Art Site would be developed with backcountry access trail and off-site interpretive signing (p. 2-45).
- MA-TM-16: Trail construction (non-motorized and non-mechanized only) would occur to support protection and/or enhancement of Monument objects, RMZ objectives or to resolve issues of public safety, user conflicts, or resource protection.
- DFC-TM-02: A variety of existing motorized, mechanized, and non-motorized trail and travel opportunities would be sustained, where needed, to meet public and administrative needs.

Arizona Strip Field Office RMP

- MA-RR-230: Visitors will be provided with environmental educational opportunities that are appropriate for each RMZ or for the ERMA's, allowing them to enjoy the variety of challenges that are presented when visiting these areas.
- DFC-RR-29: The public will understand the importance of natural and cultural resources in the Arizona Strip FO through interpretive, watchable wildlife, and other environmental education programs.
- MA-RR-05: Generally, signing and recreation facility development in the ERMA's will be the minimum necessary to provide for public safety, reduce user conflicts, and protect resources.

It has been determined that the Proposed Action would not conflict with other decisions throughout these plans.

1.5 Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, or Other Plans

The Proposed Action is consistent with federal, state and local laws, regulations, and plans to the maximum extent possible, including the following:

- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976 (90 Stat. 2776, 43 U.S.C. 1761)
- 1962 Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
- Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), as amended
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended)
- Executive Order 11988 (floodplains)
- Executive Order 11990 (wetlands)
- Executive Order 12898 (environmental justice)
- Executive Order 13112 (Invasive Species)
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978
- Archaeological Resource Protection Act of 1979

1.6 Identification of Issues

Identification of issues for this EA was accomplished by considering the resources that could be affected by implementation of one of the alternatives.

A BLM interdisciplinary scoping meeting was conducted on January 26, 2015, which included the identification of: potentially relevant or affected resources, issues, and/or concerns; any additional feasible alternatives that could achieve the purpose and need; potentially interested or affected stakeholders; and required special status species, cultural, and other inventories. A scoping letter was sent out on February 4, 2015, to 103 interested parties. Two emails were received in response to this scoping letter (see Chapter 5). The issues identified through this process, along with the rationale for analysis, are listed below.

1.6.1 Recreation

The Maze Rock Art Site is a designated cultural resource public use site that attracts local and regional visitors. Recreational use would benefit with improved access. This trail and trailhead would offer another recreational opportunity in Coyote Valley in addition to the current hiking areas at Wire Pass, Buckskin Gulch, and Stateline Campground.

1.6.2 Soils / Hydrologic Conditions

Naturally occurring (and some man-made) erosion is prevalent in the Maze Rock Art Site area. Proposed trail building and trailhead construction would result in disturbances to soils with increased erosion in some areas and decreased erosion in others.

1.6.3 Vegetation

The proposed construction of a trailhead and trail may result in disturbances and impacts to sagebrush, mixed shrub/grass, with some pinyon pine, and juniper with grass/shrub understory type vegetation.

1.6.4 Visual Resources

There could be impacts to Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class I values during construction of the trail and reclamation of existing social trails.

1.6.5 Wilderness

There would be impacts to wilderness character; naturalness and solitude from the proposed project. Crews working in the area would be largely visible to guests and would be creating temporary noise and dust while constructing the trail.

CHAPTER 2 DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Introduction

This EA focuses on the Proposed Action and No Action alternatives. Other alternative areas for the trailhead and trail north and south of the Proposed Action area were considered and analyzed by the staff, but due to topography (cliffs and steep hillsides) and resource concerns (erosion and cultural) they would not be considered. The No Action alternative is considered and analyzed to provide a baseline for comparison of the impacts of the Proposed Action.

2.2 Proposed Action- Alternative A

The Proposed Action is to re-route the existing social trails into a new trail which would be more direct, sustainable, and reduce the current levels of erosion and resource damage. A 0.25 acre trailhead 0.2 miles north of the current parking area would need to be constructed (See Appendix A, Map 1: *The Maze Rock Art Site*).

Trail

The new trail would provide access to the Maze Rock Art Site from the newly constructed trailhead. The trail would start adjacent to House Rock Valley Road (across the road from the trailhead) and follow a small wash to the base of the hill. To ascend the hill, a trail would be constructed to the top where the trail meets a fence line. The trail would cross the fence with a gate providing hiker access. The trail would then cross a sage brush flat to the existing trail at the base of the hill below the Maze Rock Art Site. The trail would also provide hiking and equestrian access to the Notch Access trail into Coyote Buttes.

A sustainable trail would be built to lead visitors to the rock art site without damaging surrounding resources. The trail would be constructed as a single-track trail with a tread width of 18"-24" and a cleared area of up to 36". The trail would be constructed with the minimum tool necessary to complete the work. The MRDG (Appendix E) has concluded that using crews and hand tools to construct the trail would be the minimum tools necessary to complete the Proposed Action. The trail provides access to the Maze Rock Art Site and surrounding areas, for hiking or equestrian use.

Once the new trail is constructed, the social trails would be closed (signed and barricaded with natural material such as rocks and trees). The social trails may be rehabilitated with a suitable seed mix to help control invasive weeds and provide soil stabilization. (See Appendix A, Map 2: *The Maze Rock Art Site Trail*).

Trailhead

The new trailhead would be built on the west side of House Rock Valley Road in a currently disturbed 0.25 acre user-created parking area. This new trailhead would provide a larger parking area than the parking area to the south (which has limited space and visibility due to the trees), more accessible for low clearance vehicles, and protect surrounding vegetation (delineated with fence) more than the present one used for accessing the Maze Rock Art Site 0.2 miles south.

The trailhead would be constructed in a manner to provide access to the site with minimal amounts of erosion and provide adequate parking to reduce resource damage. The trailhead may be constructed with a road base type material, post and pole fence or boulders for controlled access and to delineate parking, an informational kiosk, and potentially a restroom. Heavy equipment may be used to construct the trailhead e.g., smooth out the area with a blade, haul road base with a dump truck (from possible BLM pit), unload infrastructure, etc. An interpretive panel would be installed at the new parking area to inform the public about the Maze Rock Art Site and the Notch Access. (See Appendix A, Map 3: The Maze Rock Art Site Trailhead).

2.3 No Action- Alternative B

Under the No Action Alternative, no new trail and trailhead would be developed for the Maze Rock Art Site. The two existing parking areas and social trails would continue to be used in the area. Visitors would continue to make more trails as the current social trails change from weather and lack of maintenance.

The untrammeled wilderness character would remain as is from the trail not being constructed. However, the naturalness character would continue to be impacted as social trails are used and developed.

CHAPTER 3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to describe the existing environment potentially affected by the alternatives. The affected environment of this EA was considered and analyzed by an interdisciplinary team of resource specialists. Table 3.1 (below) addresses the elements and resources of the human environment considered in the development of this EA. The resources identified and discussed in this chapter include the relevant physical and biological conditions that may be impacted with implementation of the alternatives and provides the baseline for comparison of impacts described in Chapter 4.

3.2 Elements/Resources of the Human Environment

The BLM is required to consider many authorities when considering a Federal action. Those elements and resources of the human environment that are subject to the requirements specified in statute, regulation, or executive order and must be considered in all EAs (BLM 2008c), have been considered by BLM resource specialists to determine whether they would potentially be affected by the alternatives. These elements and resources are identified in Table 3.1, along with the rationale for determination of potential effects. If any element or resource was determined to be potentially impacted, it was carried forward for detailed analysis in this EA; if an element or resource is not present or would not be affected, it was not carried forward for detailed analysis.

Table 3.1 Elements/Resources of the Human Environment

RESOURCE	RATIONALE FOR DETERMINATION	DETERMINATION
Air Quality	Air quality in the general area is good, although windblown dust from House Rock Valley Road can be a minor source of pollution. The Proposed Action could result in temporary, localized deterioration of air quality as a result of dust generated from constructing the trail and trailhead, but this fugitive dust would be temporary and would cease once the project is complete.	Present, but not affected
Area of Critical Environmental Concern	The proposed project area is not within an Area of Critical Environmental Concern.	Not present
Cultural Resources	The Maze Rock Art Site could potentially receive more recreational use with the development of a trailhead, trail and interpretive panels. Interpretive kiosks would be installed to educate the public of the value and history of the site. However, the site has been designated as a cultural public use site, so visitation by the public is anticipated. In addition, a Class III inventory has been conducted for the proposed trail and trailhead. No historic properties, sites eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places would be affected by the project.	Present, but not affected
Environmental Justice	The focus of the Environmental Justice evaluation is to determine whether the alternatives result in an inequitable distribution of adverse effects to special population groups, as compared to adverse effects on other population groups. These special population groups include minority or otherwise special ethnicity or low-income neighborhoods. There are no known special population groups occurring near the project area.	Not Present
Farmlands (prime or unique)	Prime or unique farmlands are not present on or adjacent to the Maze Rock Art Site project area.	Not present

RESOURCE	RATIONALE FOR DETERMINATION	DETERMINATION
Floodplains	The Maze Rock Art Site project area is not within a 100-year floodplain. The trailhead is 225 feet away from the House Rock Wash which is considered a 1% annual flood (100 year flood) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood maps. With the distance from the wash and the direction the wash flows the trailhead would not affect the floodplain.	Present, but not affected
Invasive, Non-native species	There are no known occurrences of noxious weeds within the proposed project area and little, if any, cheatgrass present. The Proposed Action is not expected to contribute to the spread of these species.	Not Present
Threatened, Endangered or Candidate plant species	There are no known threatened, endangered, or candidate plant species that occur within the project area.	Not present
Threatened, Endangered or Candidate animal species	The California condor, a Federally listed endangered species, is present throughout the Arizona Strip. Individuals that may occur at the project area are part of a non-essential experimental population under section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act. Construction activities often result in the creation of micro-trash. Condors are attracted to micro-trash and may ingest it. Micro-trash includes bottle caps, pull tabs, broken glass, cigarette butts, small bits of plastic, bullets and casings, etc. During the breeding season the adults return to the nest where they then regurgitate this to feed the chicks. Because the chicks are unable to regurgitate, the micro trash accumulates in their stomachs and causes death. Micro-trash is the leading cause of condor chick mortality. However, implementing design features listed in Appendix D would eliminate the likelihood of this occurring. In addition, no condor nests are known to occur within 10 miles of the project area. The Proposed Action would not affect California condors.	Present, but not affected
Wastes (hazardous or solid)	The proposed design features listed in Appendix D would not allow the disposal of waste, including petroleum products. Hazardous materials would therefore not be present in the project area.	Not present
Water quality (drinking/ground)	There is no known surface water in close proximity to project area, and the proposed project would not affect ground water because all proposed activities would occur on the surface. Thus, no effects to water quality are expected.	Not present
Wetlands/ Riparian Zones	No wetlands or riparian zones exist within the project area.	Not present
Wild and Scenic Rivers	There are no river segments classified as designated, eligible, or suitable under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act within the project area.	Not present
Woodland/ Forestry	Construction of the proposed parking area and new trail would not affect the availability of, or access to, these resources. Access is already restricted due to the majority of the project area being located within designated wilderness.	Present, but not affected
Recreation	The Maze Rock Art Site is a public use site and is in designated wilderness. The development of a trailhead and trail would improve access to the site and likely increase the recreation in the area.	Present and potentially affected
Livestock grazing	The Maze Rock Art Site is within an active grazing allotment (Coyote). Due to the small amount of disturbance with constructing the trailhead and trail, grazing on the allotment would not be affected by the Proposed Action.	Present, but not affected
Soils	Minor impacts to soils would occur while building the trailhead and trail. The purpose of the construction is to create a sustainable trail that would help prevent erosion and trail braiding. This issue is therefore analyzed in detail in this EA.	Present and potentially affected
Socioeconomic Conditions	The economic base of the Arizona Strip is mainly ranching with a few uranium mine operations. Nearby communities are mostly supported by tourism (including outdoor recreation). While development of the trailhead may increase use of the trail, visitation to this small site would not noticeably affect the economy of the local area. Socioeconomic conditions would therefore be negligibly impacted.	Present, but not affected
Vegetation	The disturbance of vegetation is expected to occur while creating the new trailhead and trail. This issue is therefore analyzed in detail in this EA	Present, and potentially affected

RESOURCE	RATIONALE FOR DETERMINATION	DETERMINATION
Visual resources and other issues	The trail construction portion of this project is within a designated VRM Class I area. The objective of this VRM class is to preserve the existing character of the landscape; the level of change of the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention. VRM Class I provides for natural ecological changes, but does not preclude very limited management activity. Short term impacts from noise and dust would be generated during construction. The trail would be constructed to curve with the topography in a way that it does not attract attention visually. A Contrast Rating Analysis has been conducted for the trail and trailhead. The Contrast Rating Analysis concludes that design features need to be in place to meet the VRM Class I objectives for the East side of the project layout. The Contrast Rating was conducted to ensure all landscape modifications and trail construction would not change the surrounding landscape in a way that it conflicts with the objectives of VRM Class I. The trails primarily go through areas that are slightly vegetated with shrubs, pinion, and juniper, which create a uniform color and texture. Through proper survey and design of the trail, the impacts to the visual resource would be kept to a minimum.	Present and potentially affected
Mineral Resources	Because a large portion of project is within designated wilderness (established in 1984), no claims can be filed. Salable and leasable mineral development, including oil and gas, is also precluded by the wilderness designation. Mineral resources would therefore not be affected by the alternatives.	Present, but not affected
Paleontology	No paleontological resources are known to occur within the project area.	Not present
Lands/Access	Access to public lands would not be altered or impaired by implementation of the Proposed Action. No other lands issues have been identified in connection with the alternatives.	Present, but not affected
Wilderness characteristics	The proposed project does not occur within areas managed to maintain wilderness characteristics.	Not present
Wilderness	The proposed new trail construction would occur in designated wilderness and could affect wilderness values. This issue is therefore analyzed in detail in this EA.	Present and potentially affected
Wildlife, including sensitive species and migratory birds	The proposed action is small in scope (approximately .25 acres) and would primarily occur in areas that are already disturbed. No habitat changes from the existing condition are anticipated. The project may temporarily displace some wildlife species during implementation. However, this displacement would be negligible (less than one week). Project Design Features (Appendix D) would offset potential effects to wildlife during project implementation.	Present, but not affected

3.3 General Setting

The Maze Rock Art Site project is located along House Rock Valley Road (BLM Route 1065) approximately 18 miles north from Highway 89A and about 1 mile south of the Utah/Arizona state line (Arizona in T. 41 N., R. 3&4 E., Gila and Salt River Meridian, in Coconino County, Arizona).

3.4 Recreation

The project area for the Maze Rock Art Site is currently used by hikers with some equestrian use. The area offers great views along with opportunities to explore and visit the Maze Rock Art Site and Coyote Buttes. From current trail counters, the site is averaging a few hikers each day adding up to approximately 150 visitors a month. This use has resulted in the development of informal social trails and parking areas. The Maze Rock Art Site is well known to local visitors.

The Maze Rock Art Site is within the Paria Special Recreation Management and the Coyote Buttes Recreation Management Zone. It is within the roaded natural physical recreation setting and the semi-primitive non-motorized social recreation setting.

3.5 Soils/ Hydrologic Conditions

Soils where proposed trail work would occur are generally suited for trail construction, with limitations due to soil texture and slope. Soils can range from heavy clays to loams and can contain substantial amounts of rock fragments. Loams, particularly those with a high content of gravel or small cobbles are present in the area and are most suitable for trail construction. Also, the project area has a high amount of sand which is suitable for a foot traffic trail.

Soils in the project area are shallow and deep, excessively drained, nearly level to hilly with a more precise soil description found in the Natural Resource Conservation Service's Soil Survey of Coconino County Area Arizona, North Kaibab Part (2005). For the purposes of this EA, soils with slopes of 12 percent or more are assumed to be fragile.

Hydrologic conditions are variable for the proposed trail, with natural erosion occurring wherever slopes are steep and vegetation is lacking. Any ground disturbance that is introduced has a high potential to increase erosion conditions. Conditions can range from nearly barren and unstable on the south-facing slopes to a more stable sagebrush flats on top. The landscape is more able to resist erosion when it consists of gentle gradients supporting highly protective desirable plants. It is least likely to resist erosion on hot, south slopes which lack protective vegetation.

3.6 Vegetation

Vegetation types throughout the project are mainly sagebrush, mixed shrub/grass (Indian ricegrass and needle and thread) and juniper with some pinyon pine with grass/shrub understory.

3.7 Visual Resources

The BLM inventories and classifies public lands in order to identify and maintain areas that contain important scenic qualities; the Visual Resource Inventory classification system is based on a combination of three elements, including scenic quality, visual sensitivity, and distance zones, with the most important to visitors probably being scenic quality (BLM 1986). Scenic quality is described as the visual appeal of an area. The rating is based on seven key factors: landform, vegetation, water, color, adjacent scenery, scarcity, and cultural modifications. BLM lands fall into one of four VRM classes, which represent the relative value of the visual resources (BLM 2007).

The Maze Rock Art Site and most of the trail leading to it occurs within a designated VRM Class I area. The objective for this class is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. This class provides for natural ecological changes; however, it does not preclude limited management activity. The level of change of the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention by the casual observer. The trailhead lies within a designated VRM Class III area. The objective for this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. Activities in this area may attract attention but should not dominate the view. (BLM, 2007)

3.8 Wilderness

The Maze Rock Art Site and most of the trail leading to it are within the Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness. This wilderness area is known for its beauty and solitude. The portion of the wilderness where the Maze Rock Art Site Project is located is composed of spectacular red rock formations and cliffs. The area is remote, providing outstanding opportunities for solitude.

A minimum requirement analysis was conducted for this project using the Minimum Requirements Decision Guide (MRDG) Worksheets (www.wilderness.net/MRDG; see Appendix E). This provides the decision maker information on making the best decision on management of the Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness to meet the minimum requirements for administering this area and preserving its wilderness character. This analysis assisted the BLM in identifying the minimum tools necessary to protect the wilderness character while providing for the health and safety of the public.

CHAPTER 4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The potential consequences or effects of both alternatives are discussed in this chapter (including a description of the direct and indirect impacts, and cumulative effects, if any). Impacts are defined as modifications to the existing condition of the environment and/or probable future condition that would be brought about by implementation of one of the alternatives. The intent is to provide the scientific and analytical basis for comparison of the effects of each alternative.

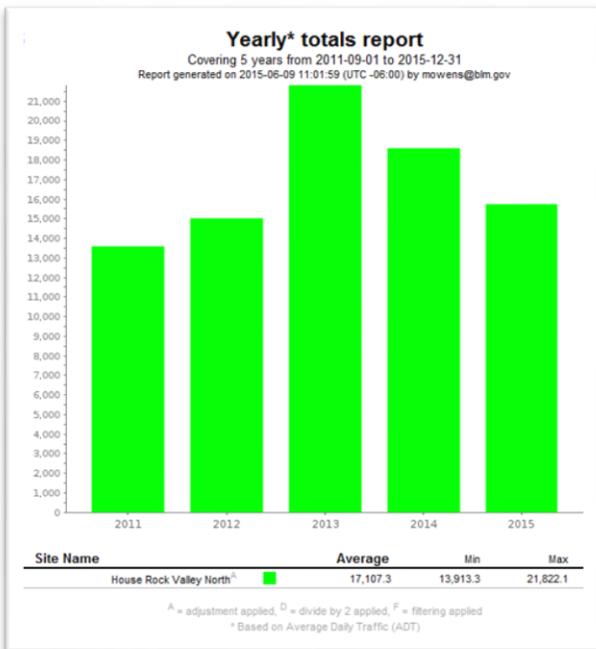
Impacts can be direct or indirect; direct impacts are those effects that are caused by the action or alternative and occur at the same time and place, while indirect effects are those effects that are caused by or would result from an alternative and are later in time or further removed in distance, but that are still reasonably certain to occur. Cumulative effects are generally assessed using the environmental impacts of past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions within the project area.

The impact analyses in the following sections were based on knowledge of the resources and the project area, review of existing literature, information provided by experts and other agencies, and professional judgment.

4.1 RECREATION

4.1.1 Proposed Action- Alternative A

The House Rock Valley Road area (BLM Route 1065) is already a popular recreation destination for many travelers. Buckskin Gulch, Paria Canyon, Wire Pass, Coyote Buttes (the “Wave”), and White Pocket are all accessed from the same road.



The trailhead would be on the House Rock Valley Road. According to counter data located near the proposed trailhead this area receives 17,100 visitors per year. (See figure 4.1) The interpretive information at the trailhead would provide visitors information about the area, the Maze Rock Art Site, Coyote Buttes and its resources, recommendations on protecting these resources, and visitor safety. In addition, construction of a trailhead and a defined trail would provide better access to the Maze Rock Art Site. Having a designated trailhead along House Rock Valley road, combined with a moderate hike, would likely attract increased visitation to the site. Thus, the Proposed Action would increase recreational opportunities in the area.

Figure 4.1

4.1.2 No Action- Alternative B

The Maze Rock Art Site would continue to have visitors accessing the site from the two user created parking areas. No additional public educational, interpretive or safety information would be available on site to educate the public, protect resources, and promote visitor safety. Visitors would continue to access the site along many braided trails. While visitation may increase somewhat due to increased use of House Rock Valley Road, there is a limit to how much can occur at any one time due to the limited space for parking vehicles. Under this alternative, user experiences would not be enhanced (due to improved trailhead access and signage). Increasing recreational use in this area and in the region would occur with the No Action alternative.

4.2 SOILS/ HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS

4.2.1 Proposed Action- Alternative A

Approximately 0.47 miles of new trail disturbance is proposed with the construction. The proposed trailhead is in a currently disturbed area, and new soil disturbance in the area would be minimal. The new disturbance from building the trail has the potential to increase soil erosion from water flows. Implementation of the design features (see Appendix D) would help minimize the impacts of the new disturbance. As trail surfaces become packed, soil erosion would lessen over time. Water erosion is apt to be higher on steeper slopes that lack protective vegetation cover. The portions of the new trail that traverse up the ridge and then cross the small washes in the flat would likely be areas where soil erosion could occur (see Appendix B: Water Erosion Potential). These more fragile soils (slopes of 12% or more) would need to be built sustainably to shed water from the trail and decrease erosion. Proper trail building designed to shed water would help the trail be more sustainable (see Appendix D # 6). Trail construction on fragile soils can create excessive erosion because their surface layers lack stability or they may be particularly steep. These soils would be avoided to the maximum extent possible. Fragile soils subject to erosion are few, but do occur on the steep terrain near the ridge and wash crossings.

4.2.2 No Action- Alternative B

The proposed trailhead and trail would not be constructed and the current trailhead and trails would continue to be used. The current trail going up the first ridge would continue to see erosion in the fragile soil areas, and the trailhead in the drainage would continue to erode with runoff rainfall.

4.3 VEGETATION

4.3.1 Proposed Action- Alternative A

Disturbance of vegetation would occur with the construction of the proposed trail. The machinery used to install infrastructure at the trailhead would need to stay on the existing roads or parking area to reduce impacts to the vegetation near the parking area.

4.3.2 No Action- Alternative B

The proposed trailhead and trail would not be constructed and the current trailhead and trails would continue to be used. Impacts to the vegetation could continue with the new and current social trails. As trails fade visitors continue to push through the vegetation creating new trails. A more defined constructed trail would help consolidate the current use, thus reducing the impacts to vegetation from social trailing.

4.4 VISUAL RESOURCES

4.4.1 Proposed Action- Alternative A

The trail meets Class I VRM standards with the trail not adding contrast to the existing area. The trailhead meets Class III VRM standards, and the trailhead may attract attention but would not dominate the view of the existing area. The design features are implemented to blend the trail into the landscape. The trail being constructed would incorporate design principles to help prevent a noticeable fall-line type trail and blend with the background. Native materials would be used and vegetation removal would be minimal to reduce impacts to visual resources (see Design Features, Appendix D). The effects to the characteristic landscape would be minimal from the temporary foot traffic while constructing the trail (see Visual Contrast Rating Worksheet, Appendix C). The level of change to the characteristic landscape would be low and would not attract the attention of the casual observer. The project would therefore meet VRM Class I and class III objectives.

4.4.2 No Action- Alternative B

Under the no action alternative, no trailhead or trail would be constructed; hence there would be no changes to the characteristic landscape. This alternative would therefore result in the Maze Rock Art Site area continuing to meet the VRM Class I and Class III objectives.

4.5 WILDERNESS

4.5.1 Proposed Action- Alternative A

The remoteness, naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for solitude (wilderness character in this portion of the wilderness) would be temporarily affected by the noise and crews associated with construction of the trail. Effects to wilderness character would include some trammeling with the development of the trail. However, the naturalness would be improved by closing the multiple social trails. The MRDG Worksheets (see Appendix E) found that the Proposed Action is the minimum necessary to successfully accomplish the project.

4.5.2 No Action- Alternative B

The remoteness of the area provides for outstanding opportunities for solitude and naturalness. The naturalness would continue to be impacted by the social trailing under the No Action alternative. However, there would be no disturbance to solitude and naturalness by the noise and

dust associated with trail construction. There would also be no trammeling associated with trail construction in wilderness.

4.6 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Introduction

Cumulative impacts are those impacts resulting from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions. This EA attempts to qualify and quantify the impacts to the environment that would result from the incremental impact of the alternatives when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. These impacts can result from individually minor but collectively important actions taking place over a period of time. There are a wide variety of activities occurring on the lands in the vicinity of the project area, including livestock grazing, hiking and other recreational activities.

Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Actions

4.6.1 Recreation

A newly developed trailhead and trail with: delineated parking, informative kiosks, located on House Rock Valley Road, and near an area of high use (Paria Canyon Coyote Buttes Special Management Area) would likely attract recreationists to the area thus increasing the use.

Recreation activities occurring in the vicinity of the project area involve a broad spectrum of pursuits ranging from dispersed and casual recreation to organized, BLM-permitted group uses. Typical recreation in the region includes OHV driving, scenic driving, hiking, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, camping, hunting, picnicking, night-sky viewing, and photography. The region also includes the Paria Canyon Coyote Buttes Special Management Area which brings in thousands of people from all over the world to see unique geological features (e.g., Buckskin Gulch, Wire Pass, Paria Canyon, and the “Wave”), and to experience backpacking down some of the longest known slot canyons.

Highway 89A is the major traffic artery through the area to the Kaibab Plateau and the north rim of the Grand Canyon. The Arizona Strip is known for its large-scale undeveloped areas and remoteness especially the Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness and Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, both of which provide an array of recreational opportunities for users who wish to experience primitive and undeveloped recreation. Vermilion Cliffs National Monument also provides opportunities for those seeking more organized or packaged recreation experiences.

4.6.2 Soils/ Hydrologic Conditions

Construction of the trail would be cumulative with natural, geologic erosion which occurs in this watershed; and with human caused disturbances, such as inappropriate ATV use, livestock

trailing, which all remove protective vegetation to some degree and lead to increased erosion. On the other hand, because this trail would be constructed by hand, contain impact minimization criteria (e.g. design features), and are intended for non-mechanized uses, they are not expected to be substantial contributors to increased erosion.

4.6.3 Vegetation

Upland vegetative communities throughout the trails system are influenced by a variety of factors, including, but not limited to: climate, drought, wind, geology, topography, soil, elevation, slope, aspect, etc. They are also influenced by natural and human-caused disturbances including insects, disease, fire and fire suppression, invasive species, domestic livestock grazing, wildlife, etc.

With any ground disturbing activity, there would be the opportunity for invasive species, both native and nonnative, to invade the associated sites. This would depend on level of disturbance, proximity of invasive species to the disturbed area, success of the rehabilitation, etc. The washing of undercarriages of vehicles and equipment prior to implementation activities for the trailhead and reseeding disturbed areas in and around the user created parking area would be expected to minimize invasive species introduction.

4.6.4 Visual Resources

Various actions can create changes to the basic landscape elements of form, line, color, and texture. Over time, population growth of the communities in the area could erode natural night sky conditions; development of lands for community expansion purposes would result in increased recreational use, which could produce an increase in the creation of fugitive dust that could change the visual character of adjacent public lands. However, increased recreational uses are not anticipated to result in any changes to the basic landscape elements of form, line, color, and texture. It is therefore not anticipated that the alternatives would result in cumulative impacts to visual resources when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable activities in the project area or surrounding areas.

4.6.5 Wilderness

Wilderness character (i.e., solitude, naturalness, and primitive/unconfined recreation) is primarily influenced by the proximity of motorized travel corridors and the volume and density of recreational uses. Development pressure exists throughout the southwestern U.S., including in the communities in the Marble Canyon/House Rock Valley area, although community expansion would be limited in this area because no public lands in the vicinity of The Maze Rock Art Site area were identified as available for disposal in the Arizona Strip Field Office RMP, and no private parcels (inholdings) are present within this portion of the Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness or Vermilion Cliffs National Monument. However, increased recreational uses are anticipated as these communities grow. With the increase in local populations has come an increase in the level of recreational use, including OHV use and other forms of motorized recreation, although motorized use is generally prohibited within designated wilderness.

Given that neither of the alternatives would authorize motorized use within designated wilderness, and there should be minor increases in recreation as a result of this project, it is not anticipated that either alternative would result in cumulative impacts to wilderness when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable activities in the project area or surrounding areas. Visitation and increased recreation is occurring in the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument and the entire region regardless of this project.

CHAPTER 5 PERSONS, GROUPS, AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

5.1 Summary of Public Participation

During preparation of the EA, the public was notified of the Proposed Action by sending out a scoping letter on February 4, 2015 with a response date of March 6, 2015. These letters were distributed by mail and email to a list of 104 recipients. Scoping letters were also sent to all the regional tribes. Two have contacted the BLM in response to the notice. One letter, from the Hopi Tribe, was received desiring information on the project as it progresses and the other comment was by email concerning an adjacent state land water haul for a livestock permittee. A 15 day public comment period is being offered from June 23, 2015 to July 7, 2015.

5.2 List of Preparers and Contributors

The following table lists persons who contributed to the preparation of this EA.

Table 5.1 List of BLM Preparers

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Program(s)
Gloria Benson	Tribal Liaison	Tribal Information and Cultural Resources
Whit Bunting	Lead Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-Native Species, and Range
Lorraine Christian	Arizona Strip Field Manager	Project Oversight
Laurie Ford	Team Lead Lands and Geological Sciences	Lands & Realty
Jace Lambeth	Special Status Plants and Rangeland	Range and Special Status Plants
Shawn Langston	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Animals and Wildlife
Diana Hawks	Team Lead for Recreation, Wilderness, and Cultural Resources	Recreation, Visual Resources, and Wilderness
John Herron	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources

Mitchell Owens	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Visual Resources, and Wilderness
Richard Spotts	Environmental Coordinator	NEPA Compliance
John Sims	District Chief Law Enforcement Ranger	Law Enforcement

Table 5.2 List of Persons, Agencies, and Organizations Consulted

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document
Daniel Bulletts	Kaibab Paiute Tribe	Tribal and Native American Coordination
Ron Henderson and Sheri Finicum	Livestock Permittees	Permittee for the Coyote Allotment
Peter Bungart and Dawn Hubbs	Hualapai Tribe	Cultural Resource
Leigh J Kuwanwisiwma	Hopi Cultural Preservation Office	Cultural Resources
Chris Lowman	Range Resource Area Manager, Arizona State Lands	Range, Vegetation
Steve Rosenstock	Arizona Game and Fish Department	Wildlife and Vegetation

Chapter 6

6.1 References Cited

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- Bureau of Land Management (BLM). U.S. Department of Interior. 2008c. *National Environmental Policy Act Handbook*, H-1790-1. Washington, DC.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). 2010. Flood Insurance Rate Maps. Panels 1050 and 650. Coconino County, Arizona.
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). U.S. Department of Agriculture. 2005. *Soil Survey of Coconino County Area, Arizona, North Kaibab Part*.

6.2 List of Acronyms

ACRONYM OR ABBREVIATION	
ATV	All-Terrain Vehicle
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DR	Decision Record
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FR	Federal Register
MRDG	Minimum Requirement Decision Guide
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
OHV	Off Highway Vehicle

PCVC	Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs
RMP	Resource Management Plan
USC	United States Code
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
VRM	Visual Resource Management

Appendices

Appendix A: Project Area Maps

Appendix B: Soil Map

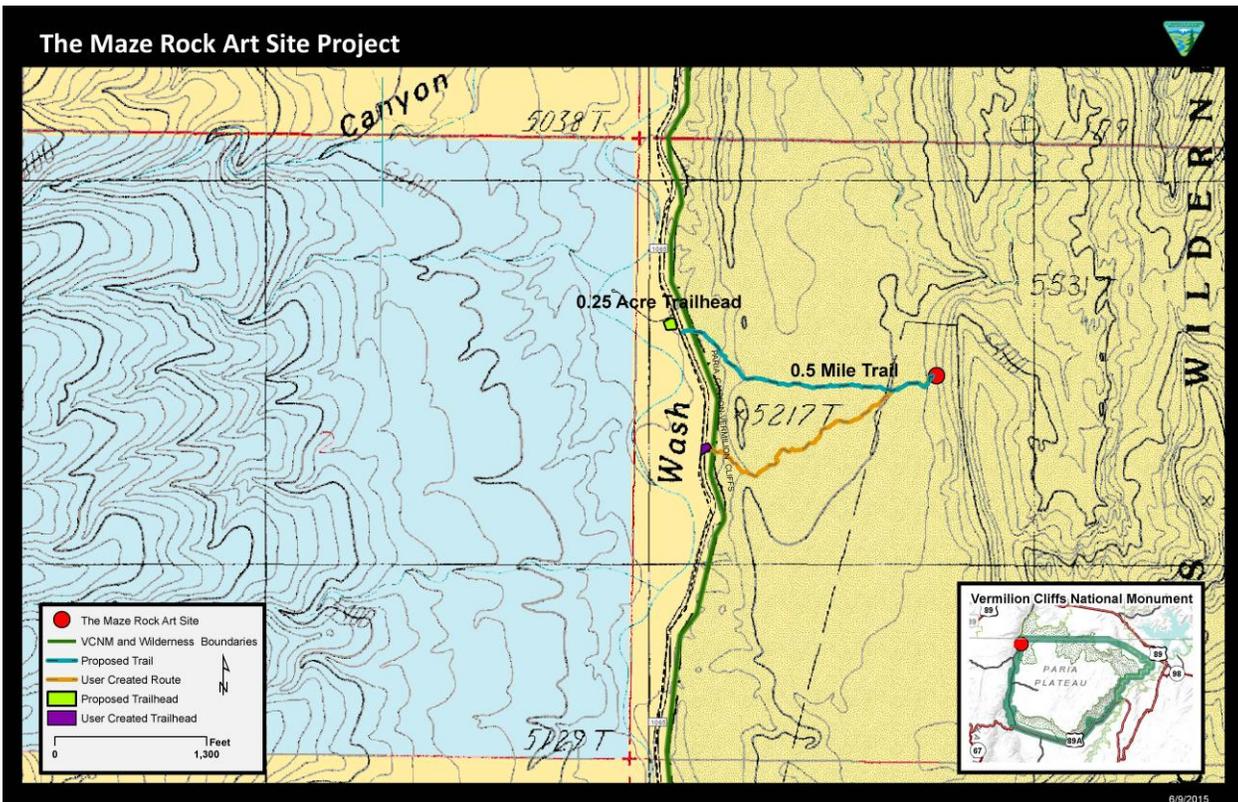
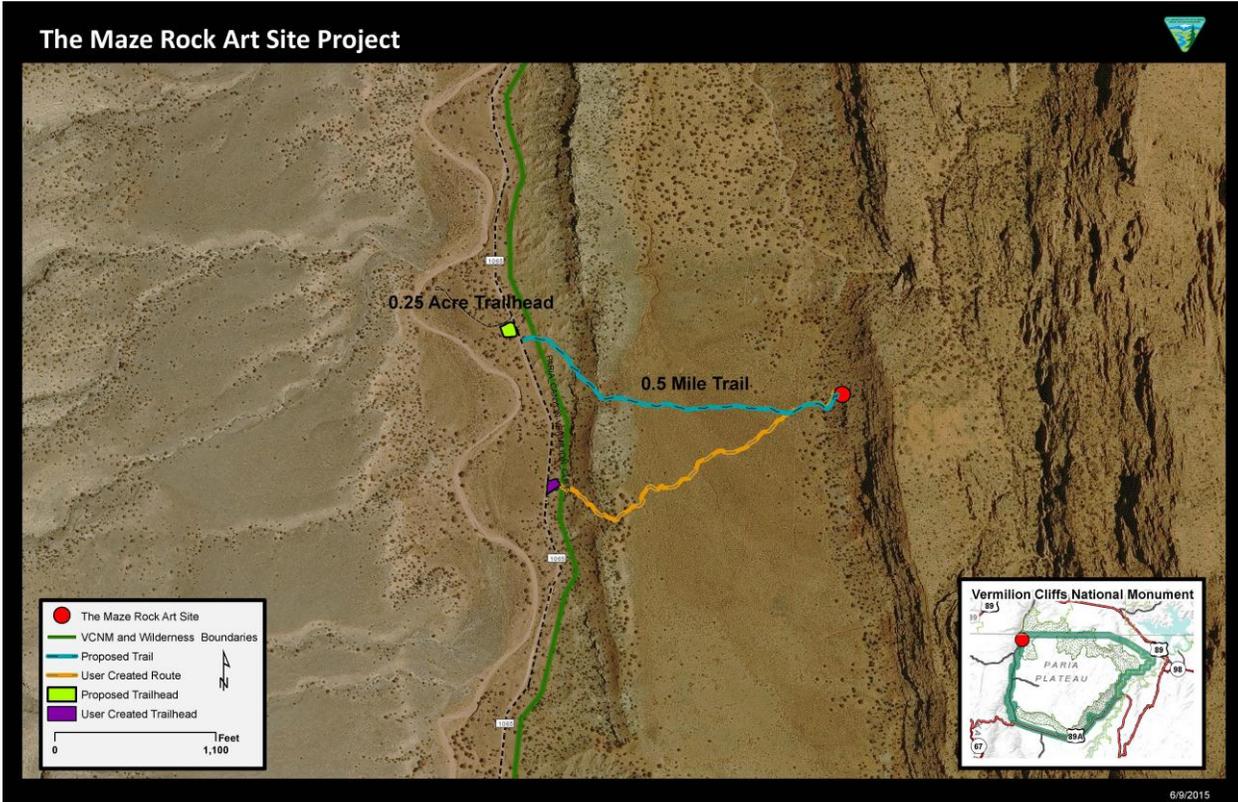
Appendix C: Visual Contrast Rating Worksheet

Appendix D: Design Features

Appendix E: Minimum Requirements Decision Guide

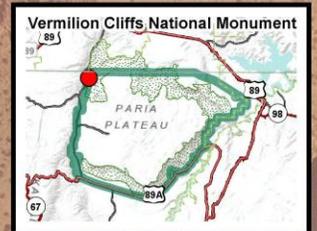
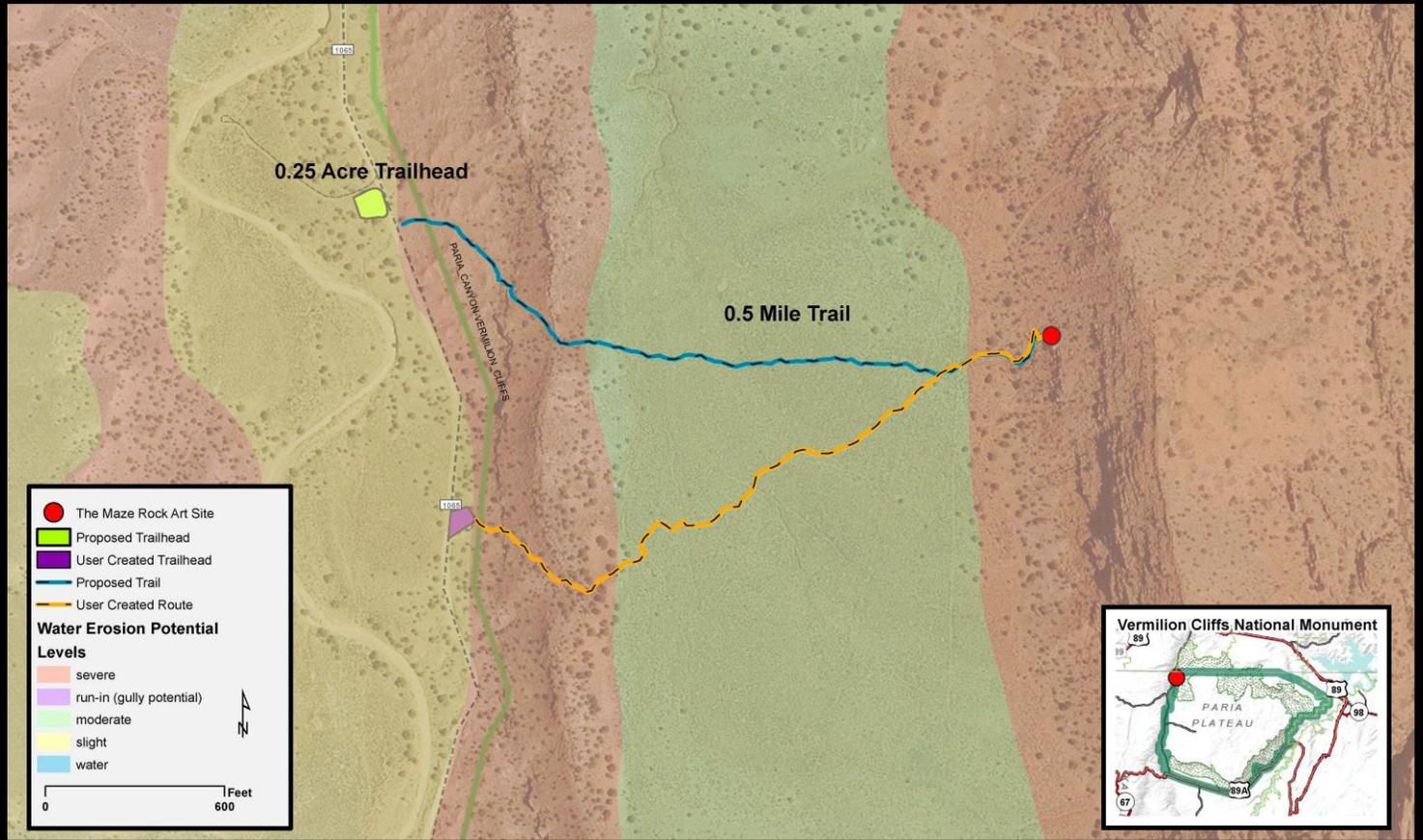
APPENDIX A

Project Area Maps



APPENDIX B Soil Map

Water Erosion Potential



6/10/2015

APPENDIX C

Visual Contrast Rating Worksheet

Form 8400-4
(September 1985)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

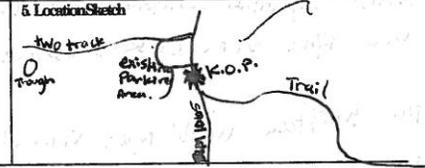
Date 6/11/15

District Arizona Strip District

Resource Area Vermilion Cliffs National Monument

Activity (program) Maze Rock Art Site

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

<p>1 Project Name <u>Maze Rock Art Site Trail and Trailhead Development</u></p> <p>2 Key Observation Point <u>House Rock Valley Road</u></p> <p>3 VRM Class <u>Trail to the East is VRM class I Trailhead to the West is VRM Class III</u></p>	<p>4 Location</p> <p>Township _____</p> <p>Range _____</p> <p>Section _____</p>	<p>5 Location Sketch</p> 
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SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	1 LAND/WATER	2 VEGETATION	3 STRUCTURES
FORM	Rocky ridgeline w/ cliffs in background (East). Mountain Range to the West.	Some Juniper, Sage brush, and small shrubs, w/ sparse amounts of grass.	- Permit entrance sign - No camping sign in trailhead - Culvert to the south.
LINE	Some Harsh lines created from rock layers. Ridge lines/ Sky lines are horizontal w/ diagonals.	Sparse Vegetation lines to the East. Some PJ lines to the West	Signs - vertical lines.
COLOR	Red, brown, white, gray	green, light green, gray	Brown, white, Red, green
TEXTURE	Rough, blocky, w/ some smooth	Rough to Medium texture Patchy.	Light to Medium

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1 LAND/WATER	2 VEGETATION	3 STRUCTURES
FORM	Rocky Ridgeline to the East. Mountains to the West. (No change)	Sparse vegetation w/ some form created by veg patterns. light veg removal (No change)	Trail & Trailhead Min. veg removal. Trail is mostly hidden by foothill
LINE	Sky lines horizontal w/ some diagonal Road is slightly curved. (No change)	veg removal would be minimal to keep from creating new lines	Curvilinear trail principles to keep trail w/ the contour of Hill.
COLOR	No change in land color	No change in veg. color	Trail - brown, red, gray Trailhead - brown, red
TEXTURE	Stay the same	Patchy - stay the same	Smooth - Trail & Trailhead.

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING SHORT TERM LONG TERM

1	DEGREE OF CONTRAST	FEATURES												<p>2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (Explain on reverse side)</p> <p>3. Additional mitigating measures recommended? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (Explain on reverse side)</p>
		LAND/WATER BODY (1)			VEGETATION (2)				STRUCTURES (3)					
		Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	
ELEMENTS	Form			X				X				X	<p>Evaluator's Name <u>Mitchell Owens</u> Date <u>6/11/15</u></p>	
Line			X				X				X			
Color			X				X				X			
Texture			X				X				X			

SECTION D. (Continued)

Comments from item 2.

The trail would not add any contrast to the site. The trail next to the Pond is noticeable, but disappears behind the foothill. The trail would also need to follow the contour of the Ridge to keep from creating a full-line type trail. Vegetation Removal would be kept minimal. The trail portion of the project would meet VRM class I objective.

The trailhead would meet VRM class III. The parking area is currently disturbed and when adding infrastructure such as kiosks and fences Attraction would be increased. These new developments would attract some attention, but not dominate the view. Thus, the trailhead would meet the VRM class III objective.

Additional Mitigating Measures (See item 3)

*There are design features added to the EA to help minimize impacts to the VRM classes.

APPENDIX D DESIGN FEATURES

TRAIL AND TRAILHEAD CONSTRUCTION

- 1- To eliminate the potential for disruption to hikers, trail construction would occur on weekdays, outside of peak hiking activity in the area.
- 2- Project activities would be scheduled outside the peak breeding season for migratory birds (April 15-August 15).
- 3- The BLM would request that project personnel notify the BLM wildlife team lead (Jeff Young, 435-688-3373) if California condors visit the worksite while project activities are underway. The BLM may modify, relocate, or delay project activities where adverse effects to condors may result.
- 4- The project site would be cleaned up at the end of each day the work is being conducted (e.g., trash removed, scrap materials picked up) to minimize the likelihood of condors visiting the site. BLM staff may conduct site visits to the area to ensure adequate clean-up measures are taken.
- 5- Vegetation removal would be kept to a minimum when constructing the trailhead and trail. Minor trimming of shrubs and trees would occur during construction to improve the tread, trail corridor, and to increase safety. The old routes would be closed and rehabilitated with barriers and a suitable seed mix to help control invasive weeds.
- 6- The trail being constructed would need to be sustainable. This would require curvilinear design principles to help prevent a fall-line type trail. (A curvilinear trail is one aligned to follow the natural contours of the slope. A curvilinear trail alignment would allow the trail to gain elevation gradually in conjunction with the natural contours of the terrain. This type of design generally minimizes maintenance, preserves the natural resource, and makes use of natural drainage patterns.)
- 7- Mechanized equipment would need to be cleaned by power washing at an approved location before entering public lands. All equipment would need to be cleaned before leaving the project site if operating in areas infested with weeds. Mechanized equipment would only be allowed for the construction of the trailhead.
- 8- South slopes would be utilized for trails when possible to avoid habitat degradation. The southern slopes generally produce less vegetation and tend to dry out much faster after storms, which lead to users not rutting up the trail.
- 9- Gates, walk-ins, cattle guard, etc. would be installed at existing fences.

APPENDIX E

Minimum Requirements Decision Guide (MRDG)

ARTHUR CARHART NATIONAL WILDERNESS TRAINING CENTER

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS DECISION GUIDE



WORKBOOK

"...except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act..."

-- The Wilderness Act of 1964

Project Title: Maze Rock Art Site

MRDG Step 1: Determination

Determine if Administrative Action is Necessary

Description of the Situation

What is the situation that may prompt administrative action?

Public interest in accessing this locally known rock art site has created two parking areas with social trails to the Maze Rock Art Site. These two parking areas (approximately 0.2 miles apart) provide access to the site with social trails. The parking area to the south has been created in a drainage that is leading to resource degradation. The social trails from both parking areas have been created in a manner where water channels in the trail causing increased erosion.

The purpose of the proposed project is to designate and improve a trail and trailhead to access the Maze Rock Art Site. The need for the Proposed Action is to act and respond to the social trailing from the House Rock Valley Road to the Maze Rock Art Site, to provide only one parking area and trailhead for information and access, to provide better access and education/information for the area and the rock art site, and to create a more sustainable and safe place to park.

Social trails have developed from House Rock Valley Road (Route 1065) to the Maze Rock Art Site. The social trails are creating erosion and resource damage when navigating up the hillside to the top of the ridge. Once over the ridge, the trail braids across a sagebrush flat to the next ridge where the rock art site is located. A small

trail has been constructed from the end of the sagebrush flat upslope to the rock art site.

The southern parking area is located near the Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness boundary just off the east side of House Rock Valley Road (Route 1065). The area is located in a drainage which leaves ruts in the parking area that is difficult to navigate, makes access difficult for low clearance vehicles, and the vegetation is thick allowing for minimal parking. Furthermore, parking on the House Rock Valley Road can be dangerous due to visibility, dust, road conditions, and the high amount of use. A user-created trail has been developed from this parking area and would be closed and rehabilitated with barriers and appropriate seed mixes after the proposed trail and trailhead are developed.

Options Outside of Wilderness

Can action be taken outside of wilderness that adequately addresses the situation?

YES **STOP – DO NOT TAKE ACTION IN WILDERNESS**

NO **EXPLAIN AND COMPLETE STEP 1 OF THE MRDG**

Explain:

The Maze Rock Art Site is located in the Paria Canyon- Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness.

Criteria for Determining Necessity

Is action necessary to meet any of the criteria below?

A. Valid Existing Rights or Special Provisions of Wilderness Legislation

*Is action necessary to satisfy valid existing rights or a special provision in wilderness legislation (the Wilderness Act of 1964 or subsequent wilderness laws) that **requires** action? Cite law and section.*

YES NO

Explain

The proposed trail realignment is not associated with any valid existing mineral rights, or special provision in the enabling wilderness legislation.

B. Requirements of Other Legislation

Is action necessary to meet the requirements of other federal laws? Cite law and section.

YES NO

Explain:

There are no other laws relevant to this action.

C. Wilderness Character

Is action necessary to preserve one or more of the qualities of wilderness character, including: Untrammeled, Undeveloped, Natural, Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation, or Other Features of Value?

UNTRAMMELED

YES NO

Explain:

The new trail would be considered trammeling and would change the site's untrammeled wilderness character. However, the existing social trails would be closed therefore improving the site's untrammeled wilderness character. Overall, having only one trail to the Maze Rock Art Site (versus multiple trails) would best preserve the untrammeled nature of the area.

UNDEVELOPED

YES NO

Explain:

The new trail would be considered a development and would change the site's undeveloped wilderness character. However, the existing social trails would be closed therefore improving the site's undeveloped wilderness character. Overall, having only one trail to the Maze Rock Art Site (versus multiple trails) would best preserve the untrammeled nature of the area

NATURAL

YES NO

Explain:

The project could improve the natural quality by closing the social trails and allowing the surface to reclaim.

SOLITUDE OR PRIMITIVE & UNCONFINED RECREATION

YES NO

Explain:

The surrounding areas within the wilderness (Coyote Buttes/Paria Canyon Special Management Area) have strict group size limits and day-use only permits which maintains solitude of those areas. The project area, however, has low visitation, so no visitor use limits have been implemented. Visitors to the Maze Rock Art Site experience solitude, freedom, and the physical and mental challenges of self-discovery and self-reliance, so the area would therefore continue to offer an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation.

OTHER FEATURES OF VALUE

YES NO

Explain:

Educational/Historic: There is an interpretive/educational component to the EA that deals with the history of the site along with how to respect cultural resources, protect resources and improve visitor safety. These interpretive/educational panels would be located at the trailhead outside of the wilderness boundary.

Step 1 Decision

Is administrative action necessary in wilderness?

Decision Criteria

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| A. Existing Rights or Special Provisions | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO |
| B. Requirements of Other Legislation | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO |
| C. Wilderness Character | | |
| Untrammeled | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO |
| Undeveloped | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO |
| Natural | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| Outstanding Opportunities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| Other Features of Value | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |

Is administrative action necessary in wilderness?

YES

EXPLAIN AND PROCEED TO STEP 2 OF THE MRDG

NO

STOP – DO NOT TAKE ACTION IN WILDERNESS

Explain:

The purpose of the project is to help fulfill the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument RMP's (2008a) decision to develop a backcountry access trail to the Maze Rock Art Site (p. 2-45). The Maze Rock Art Site is also a designated public use site, and with the project, access to the site would be improved and limited to only one trail. With the project, comes educational interpretation and increased BLM patrols to help preserve the Maze Rock Art Site.

MRDG Step 2
Determine the Minimum Activity

Other Direction

*Is there “special provisions” language in legislation (or other Congressional direction) that explicitly **allows** consideration of a use otherwise prohibited by Section 4(c)?*

AND/OR

Has the issue been addressed in agency policy, management plans, species recovery plans, or agreements with other agencies or partners?

YES **DESCRIBE OTHER DIRECTION BELOW**

NO **SKIP AHEAD TO TIME CONSTRAINTS BELOW**

Describe Other Direction: N/A

Time Constraints

What, if any, are the time constraints that may affect the action?

The area has some crucial winter habitat for mule deer, and the project would need to be implemented in spring, summer, or fall.

Components of the Action

What are the discrete components or phases of the action?

Component *Example: Transportation of personnel to the project site*

X:

Component 1: Transport personnel and infrastructure to the trailhead (which would happen outside of the wilderness)

Component 2: Layout and mark trail

Component 3: Transport trail crew and begin construction with hand tools

Component 4: Clean up trail area, and trailhead

Component 6: Reclaim old social trails as needed

Proceed to the alternatives.

Refer to the [MRDG Instructions](#) regarding alternatives and the effects to each of the comparison criteria.

MRDG Step 2: Alternatives

Alternative 1: Maze Rock Art Site: Trail Realignment

Description of the Alternative

What are the details of this alternative? When, where, and how would the action occur? What mitigation measures would be taken?

The Proposed Action is to re-route the existing social trails to a new trail which would be more direct, manageable, and reduce the current levels of erosion and resource damage. (See Appendix A from the EA, Map 1: *The Maze Rock Art Site*).

The new trail would provide access to the Maze Rock Art Site from the newly constructed trailhead. The trail would start adjacent to House Rock Valley Road (across the road from the trailhead) and follow a small wash to the base of the hill. To ascend the hill, a bench cut trail would be constructed to the top where the trail meets a fence line. The trail would cross the fence with a gate providing hiker access. The trail would then meander across a sage brush flat to the existing trail at the base of the hill below the Maze Rock Art Site. The trail would also provide hiking and equestrian access to the Notch Access trail into Coyote Buttes.

A sustainable trail would be built to lead visitors to the rock art site without damaging surrounding resources. The trail would be constructed as a single-track trail with a tread-width of 18"-24" and a trail corridor of roughly 36". The trail would be constructed with the minimum tool necessary to complete the work. The trail's primary use would be for recreation and consist of hiking or equestrian use.

Once the new trail is constructed, the social trails would be closed (sign and barrier). The trail may be rehabilitated with a suitable seed mix to help control invasive weeds and provide soil stabilization.

Trailhead

A new trailhead would also be built (outside designated wilderness).

An interpretive panel would be installed at the new parking area to inform the public about the Maze Rock Art Site and Notch access including providing the history of the site and a message to protect this sensitive resource.

DESIGN FEATURES TRAIL CONSTRUCTION

- 1- To eliminate the potential for disruption to hikers, trail construction would occur on weekdays, outside of peak hiking activity in the area.

- 2- Project activities would be scheduled outside the peak breeding season for migratory birds (April 15-August 15).
- 3- The BLM would request that project personnel notify the BLM wildlife team lead (Jeff Young, 435-688-3373) if California condors visit the worksite while project activities are underway. The BLM may modify, relocate, or delay project activities where adverse effects to condors may result.
- 4- The project site would be cleaned up at the end of each day the work is being conducted (e.g., trash removed, scrap materials picked up) to minimize the likelihood of condors visiting the site. BLM staff may conduct site visits to the area to ensure adequate clean-up measures are taken.
- 5- Vegetation removal would be kept to a minimum when constructing the trailhead and trail. Minor trimming of shrubs and trees would occur during construction to improve the tread, trail corridor, and to increase safety. The old routes would be closed and rehabilitated with barriers and a suitable seed mix to help control invasive weeds.
- 6- The trail being constructed would need to be sustainable. This would require curvilinear design principles to help prevent a fall-line type trail. (A curvilinear trail is one aligned to follow the natural contours of the slope. A curvilinear trail alignment would allow the trail to gain elevation gradually in conjunction with the natural contours of the terrain. This type of design generally minimizes maintenance, preserves the natural resource, and makes use of natural drainage patterns.)
- 7- Mechanized equipment would need to be cleaned by power washing at an approved location before entering public lands. All equipment would need to be cleaned before leaving the project site if operating in areas infested with weeds. Mechanized equipment would only be allowed for construction of the trailhead.
- 8- South slopes would be utilized for trails when possible to avoid habitat degradation. The southern slopes generally produce less vegetation and tend to dry out much faster after storms, which lead to users not rutting up the trail.
- 9- Gates, walk-ins, cattle guard, etc. would be installed at existing fences.

Component Activities

How would each of the components of the action be performed under this alternative?

	<u>Component of the Action</u>	Activity for this Alternative
X	<i>Example: Transportation of personnel to the project site</i>	<i>Example: Personnel would travel by horseback</i>

1	Method of transport	Personnel and equipment (i.e., hand tools) would be transported to the trail construction site by foot.
2	Trail layout/design	The trail would be laid out in a way that all markers can be removed such as pin-flags or other types of flagging
3	Trail construction	No mechanized equipment would be used to construct the trail (chainsaw, skid-steer, mini-excavators, etc.)
4	Clean up	Crews would hike in to clean up all flagging and any litter. Vehicles would be used to haul personnel, tools, and flagging via the road outside wilderness
5	Reclamation	Temporary signs may be placed in the wilderness while social trails are rehabilitating.

Wilderness Character
What is the effect of each component activity on the qualities of wilderness character? What mitigation measures would be taken?

UNTRAMMELED

<u>Component Activity for this Alternative</u>		Positive	Negative	No Effect
X	<i>Example: Personnel would travel by horseback</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	Method of Transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Trail Layout	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Trail construction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Clean up	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Reclamation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Number of Effects		3	1	NE
<u>Untrammeled Total Rating</u>		2		

Explain:

The area currently has multiple trails that provide access to the Maze Rock Art Site. Constructing a new trail would negatively impact the untrammed character, but consolidating the use to one trail and rehabilitating the other trails would positively impact the untrammed character.

UNDEVELOPED

<u>Component Activity for this Alternative</u>		Positive	Negative	No Effect
X	<i>Example: Personnel would travel by horseback</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	Method of Transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Trail Layout	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Trail construction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Clean up	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Reclamation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Number of Effects		3	1	NE
<u>Undeveloped Total Rating</u>		2		

Explain:

The area is currently undeveloped by the BLM, but receives a moderate amount of use due to the popularity of the site and nearby sites. Thus, user-created trails have been formed. Constructing a new trail would negatively impact the undeveloped character. However, consolidating the use to one trail and rehabilitating the other trails would positively impact the undeveloped character with a lesser amount of trails.

NATURAL

<u>Component Activity for this Alternative</u>		Positive	Negative	No Effect
X	<i>Example: Personnel would travel by horseback</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	Method of Transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Trail Layout	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Trail construction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Clean up	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Reclamation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Total Number of Effects	3	1	NE
<u>Natural Total Rating</u>	2		

Explain:

The area currently has multiple trails that access the Maze Rock Art Site. Trail layout would be constructed in a sustainable manner to flow with the landscape and reduce erosion. The current trails are fall-line trails which channel water, cause erosion, and do not blend with the landscape.

SOLITUDE OR PRIMITIVE & UNCONFINED RECREATION

<u>Component Activity for this Alternative</u>		Positive	Negative	No Effect
X	<i>Example: Personnel would travel by horseback</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	Method of Transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Trail Layout	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Trail construction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Clean up	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Reclamation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Number of Effects		2	1	NE
<u>Solitude or Primitive & Unconfined Rec. Total Rating</u>		1		

Explain:

With the development of the trailhead (outside designated wilderness), visitor use could increase thus negatively impacting solitude. The access to the site would be improved and no permits are required to access the site, thus unconfined recreation would not be negatively impacted.

OTHER FEATURES OF VALUE

<u>Component Activity for this Alternative</u>		Positive	Negative	No Effect
X	<i>Example: Personnel would travel by horseback</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	Method of Transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Trail Layout	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3	Trail construction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Clean up	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Total Number of Effects				NE
<u>Other Features of Value Total Rating</u>		NE		

Explain:

No effect on other features of value.

Traditional Skills

What is the effect of each component activity on traditional skills?

TRADITIONAL SKILLS

<u>Component Activity for this Alternative</u>		Positive	Negative	No Effect
X	<i>Example: Personnel would travel by horseback</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	Method of Transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Trail Layout	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Trail construction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Clean up	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Total Number of Effects		1		NE
<u>Traditional Skills Total Rating</u>		1		

Explain:

No effect on traditional skills.

Economics

What is the estimated cost of each component activity?

COST

<u>Component Activity for this Alternative</u>		Estimated Cost
X	<i>Example: Personnel would travel by horseback</i>	\$1,900

1	Method of Transport	\$1,500
2	Trail Layout	\$500
3	Trail construction	\$3,000
4	Clean up	\$500
5	Reclamation	\$2000
<u>Total Estimated Cost</u>		\$7,500

Explain:

An estimate of cost for the trail construction would roughly be \$7,500. This amount could change depending on the amount of qualified volunteers and work that can be accomplished in-house.

Safety of Visitors & Workers

What is the risk of this alternative to the safety of visitors and workers? What mitigation measures would be taken?

RISK ASSESSMENT Severity of Accident	Probability of Accident				
	Frequent	Likely	Common	Unlikely	Rare
Catastrophic: Death or permanent disability	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Critical: Permanent partial disability or temporary total disability	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marginal: Compensable injury or illness, treatment, lost work	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
Negligible: Superficial injury or illness, first aid only, no lost work	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Risk Assessment</u>					

Risk Assessment Code

1 = Extremely High Risk	2 = High Risk	3 = Moderate Risk	4 = Low Risk
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Explain:

The risk involved with this project and project implementation is low.

Summary Ratings for Alternative 1	
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Wilderness Character	
Untrammeled	2
Undeveloped	2
Natural	2
Solitude or Primitive & Unconfined Recreation	1
Other Features of Value	NE
Wilderness Character Summary Rating	7
Traditional Skills	
Traditional Skills	1
Economics	
Cost	\$7,500
Safety	
Risk Assessment	4

MRDG Step 2: Alternatives

Alternative 2: No Action

Description of the Alternative

What are the details of this alternative? When, where, and how would the action occur? What mitigation measures would be taken?

Under the No Action alternative, no new trail would be developed for the Maze Rock Art Site. The existing social trails would continue to be used in the area.

Component Activities

How would each of the components of the action be performed under this alternative?

<u>Component of the Action</u>		Activity for this Alternative
X	<i>Example: Transportation of personnel to the project site</i>	<i>Example: Personnel would travel by horseback</i>
1	Method of Transport	There would be no transportation
2	Trail Layout	There would be no trail layout or design
3	Trail construction	There would be no trail construction
4	Clean up	There would be no cleanup
5	Reclamation	There would be no reclamation of old trails

Wilderness Character

What is the effect of each component activity on the qualities of wilderness character? What mitigation measures would be taken?

UNTRAMMELED

<u>Component Activity for this Alternative</u>		Positive	Negative	No Effect
X	<i>Example: Personnel would travel by horseback</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	Method of Transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2	Trail Layout	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Trail construction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Clean up	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Total Number of Effects		0	1	NE
<u>Untrammeled Total Rating</u>		-1		

Explain:

Under the No Action there would continue to be social trails created and in use.

UNDEVELOPED

<u>Component Activity for this Alternative</u>		Positive	Negative	No Effect
X	<i>Example: Personnel would travel by horseback</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	Method of Transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Trail Layout	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Trail construction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Clean up	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Total Number of Effects		0	1	NE
<u>Undeveloped Total Rating</u>		-1		

Explain:

Under the No Action alternative, multiple social trails would continue to be present.

NATURAL

<u>Component Activity for this Alternative</u>		Positive	Negative	No Effect
X	<i>Example: Personnel would travel by horseback</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	Method of Transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Trail Layout	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3	Trail construction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Clean up	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Total Number of Effects		0	-1	NE
<u>Natural Total Rating</u>		-1		

Explain:

The natural landscape would continue to see impacts due to the multiple social trails that access the Maze Rock Art Site.

SOLITUDE OR PRIMITIVE & UNCONFINED RECREATION

<u>Component Activity for this Alternative</u>		Positive	Negative	No Effect
X	<i>Example: Personnel would travel by horseback</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	Method of Transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Trail Layout	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Trail construction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Clean up	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Total Number of Effects				NE
<u>Solitude or Primitive & Unconfined Rec. Total Rating</u>		NE		

Explain:

The No Action alternative would have no effect on the solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation character, as no trail construction would occur.

OTHER FEATURES OF VALUE

<u>Component Activity for this Alternative</u>		Positive	Negative	No Effect
X	<i>Example: Personnel would travel by horseback</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	Method of Transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2	Trail Layout	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Trail construction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Clean up	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Total Number of Effects				NE
<u>Other Features of Value Total Rating</u>		NE		

Explain:

The No Action alternative would have no effect on the other features of value because no public education on the area's sensitive resources would occur.

Traditional Skills

What is the effect of each component activity on traditional skills?

TRADITIONAL SKILLS

<u>Component Activity for this Alternative</u>		Positive	Negative	No Effect
X	<i>Example: Personnel would travel by horseback</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	Method of Transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Trail Layout	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Trail construction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Clean up	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Total Number of Effects				NE
<u>Traditional Skills Total Rating</u>		NE		

Explain:

The No Action alternative would have no effect on traditional skills.

Economics

What is the estimated cost of each component activity?

COST

<u>Component Activity for this Alternative</u>		Estimated Cost
X	<i>Example: Personnel would travel by horseback</i>	\$1,900
1	Method of Transport	NA
2	Trail Layout	NA
3	Trail construction	NA
4	Clean up	NA
5	Reclamation	NA
<u>Total Estimated Cost</u>		\$0

Explain:

There would be no costs associated with the No Action alternative.

Safety of Visitors & Workers

What is the risk of this alternative to the safety of visitors and workers? What mitigation measures would be taken?

RISK ASSESSMENT	Probability of Accident				
	Frequent	Likely	Common	Unlikely	Rare
Catastrophic: Death or permanent disability	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Critical: Permanent partial disability or temporary total disability	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marginal: Compensable injury or illness, treatment, lost work	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Negligible: Superficial injury or illness, first aid only, no lost work	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Risk Assessment</u>					

Risk Assessment Code

1 = Extremely High Risk	2 = High Risk	3 = Moderate Risk	4 = Low Risk
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Explain:

Under the No Action alternative no project work would be completed. Thus, there would be no risk to staff or volunteers working on the project

Summary Ratings for Alternative 2	
Wilderness Character	
Untrammeled	-1
Undeveloped	-1
Natural	-1
Solitude or Primitive & Unconfined Recreation	NE
Other Features of Value	NE
Wilderness Character Summary Rating	-3
Traditional Skills	
Traditional Skills	NE
Economics	
Cost	\$0
Safety	
Risk Assessment	4

MRDG Step 2: Alternatives Not Analyzed

Alternatives Not Analyzed

What alternatives were considered but not analyzed? Why were they not analyzed?

Potential trail reroutes to the south and to the north of Alternative A were reviewed by the staff in the field. Due to extreme topography and resource concerns, the trail reroutes to the north and to the south was not feasible. To construct routes over some of the terrain to the north or south would require the use of heavy equipment. This type of activity would result in more soil disturbance, dust, and noise within the wilderness. There would also be impacts to the ridge that could create visual contrasts in a VRM Class I area.

MRDG Step 2: Alternative Comparison

[Alternative](#)

[1:](#)

[Alternative](#)

[2:](#)

Maze Rock Art Site: Trail and Trailhead Construction

No Action

Wilderness Character	Alternative 1		No Action	
	+	-	+	-
Untrammeled	3	1	0	1
Undeveloped	3	1	0	1
Natural	3	1	0	1
Solitude/Primitive/Unconfined	2	1	0	0
Other Features of Value	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Effects	11	4	0	0
Wilderness Character Rating	7		-3	
Traditional Skills	Alternative 1		No Action	
	+	-	+	-
Traditional Skills	1	0	0	0
Traditional Skills Rating	1		0	
Economics	Alternative 1		No Action	
Cost	\$7,500		\$0	
Safety of Visitors & Workers	Alternative 1		No Action	
Risk Assessment	4		4	

MRDG Step 2: Determination

Refer to the [MRDG Instructions](#) before identifying the selected alternative and explaining the rationale for the selection.

Selected Alternative

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alternative 1:	Maze Rock Art Site: Trail Construction
<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 2:	No Action

Explain Rationale for Selection:

The wilderness character would be improved overall by rehabilitating the existing social trails and consolidating use to a single sustainable trail. The access to a designated public use site would also be improved. Interpretation would be added at the trailhead to explain the historic use of the area along with ways to help preserve the rock art at the Maze Rock Art Site, as well as preserve the site itself. Interpretation would also promote resource protection and visitor safety.

Describe Monitoring & Reporting Requirements:

The project manager would instruct personnel on Leave-No-Trace ethics and techniques to ensure that any traces of design layout and installation are removed upon completion. Signing and natural barricades would need to be installed to help rehabilitate the existing social trails.

Approvals

Which of the prohibited uses found in Section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act are approved in the selected alternative and for what quantity?

<u>Prohibited Use</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical Transport:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Motorized Equipment:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Motor Vehicles:	

<input type="checkbox"/>	Motorboats:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Landing of Aircraft:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary Roads:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Structures:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Installations:	Construction of a 0.45 mile trail

Record and report any authorizations of Wilderness Act Section 4(c) prohibited uses according to agency policies or guidance.

Refer to agency policies for the following review and decision authorities:

Prepared	Name	Position	
	Mitch Owens	Outdoor Recreation Planner	
	Signature		Date

Recommended	Name	Position	
	Signature		Date

Recommended	Name	Position	
	Signature		Date

Approved	Name	Position	
	Lorraine M. Christian	Arizona Strip Field Office Manager	
	Signature		Date

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Environmental Assessment

DOI-BLM-AZ-A020-2015-0002-EA

Maze Rock Art Site Trail and Trailhead Development

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the Maze Rock Art Site trail and trailhead development will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

Lorraine M. Christian
Field Office Manager
Arizona Strip Field Office

Date