

## **Appendix C**

**Part 1. Public Meeting Sign In Sheet**

**Part 2. Public Comments**

**Part 3. Response to Public Comments**

## **Part 1. Public Meeting Sign In Sheet**

# Red Rock / Sloan Field Office Open House

Name (please print) Preferred contact information (address or email, or none) Interest / Affiliation

Alan Quesnel	alainq@gmail.com	cyclist/hiker
Debra March	debra.n.march@gmail.com	COF
Emily Ladner	ejladner2002@yahoo.com	
CORNELL LADNER	same	
Jermareon Williams	Wjermareon - william@reid.senate.gov	Senator Reid's office
Wanda Kienhoeck	optien@hotmail	Trails/Sloan canyon
Sandra Dyer	Sdyer325@gmail.com	Friends of Sloan
JERRY KEATING	ESBK1@COX.NET	residence/NErshuber
Steve Shulby Draper	ssdraper2@gmail.com	
Jim Stanger	jstanger@roadup.com	Friends of Sloan



# Red Rock / Sloan Field Office Open House

Name (please print) Preferred contact information (address or email, or none) Interest / Affiliation

George Reyling	mail 19368@aol.com	Sum City Anthem Hiking Club Friends of Sloan
Bob Fowler	rjfowler6769@gmail.com	Sum City Anthem Hiking Club
Paul A Renois	renoispi@yahoo.com	SHPO Site Stewards
FRANÇOISE BAKER	2384Bensley@t	Hiking - Sloan SCA
DOUG ROSEN	d	SNRAA / NRAAF
Joan Hirt	hjhiatt@anu.net	RRAS
Tom PAPAONA	WILIAM HORSE @ EMBARQ MAIL .COM	
Mary Kaplan	m	

# Red Rock / Sloan Field Office Open House

Name (please print)                      Preferred contact information (address or email, or none)                      Interest / Affiliation

CLARENCE HASTASEN	2568 STURROCK DR 87044	NO AFFILIATION HIKE BIKE
BARBARA TRAPER	2109 CUMBERLAND HILL	" "
Kevin Sculler	Kevin C Sculler@gmail.com	
Laura Harty	Lmharty@gmail.com	Hiker
Mike Harty	mikehartyjr@gmail.com	Hiker + Biker
Carolyn Barnes	Reno NV	
Richard Lopez	LV	Hiker

# Red Rock / Sloan Field Office Open House

**Interest / Affiliation**

**Preferred contact information**  
(address or email, or none)

**Name**  
(please print)

Name (please print)	Preferred contact information (address or email, or none)	Interest / Affiliation
E Hodge	hodge,ew@gmail.com	Self
ELIZABETH BOSTROM	egbostrom@gmail.com	
JON BOSTROM JAINA MCAN	jebostrom@gmail.com	
Sen Ritter	Sen. Ritter@crn.com	
EVAN ROSIZ DENNIS GODE	hourfriend@cox.net	self





## **Part 2. Public Comments**

Sloan Canyon Access Road  
Comment Form

Name: Butch Spears

Address: molavebutch@gmail.com

RECEIVED  
Bureau of Land Management  
07:30  
OCT 05 2015  
LAS VEGAS  
FIELD OFFICE  
Las Vegas, Nevada

Please provide any feedback you have regarding the proposed construction of a paved access road to Sloan Canyon NCA in the vicinity of Petroglyph Canyon.

1) Do you have any specific resource/environmental concerns regarding this proposal? If so, what are they?

2) Do you have any concerns regarding any features in the proposed design? If so, what are they?

3) What other feedback would you like to provide?

WE WONDER IF BLM IS TELLING US THE WHOLE  
STORY. WHAT IS THE REAL PICTURE?

\*\*Comments can be emailed to: [bwarner@blm.gov](mailto:bwarner@blm.gov)

\*\*Mail comments to: 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130

I THINK BLM IS ONLY INTERESTED IN \$\$\$\$

If you provide written comments and wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations and businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of officials of organizations will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

## Sloan Canyon Access Road Comment Form

Name: Camel Wilhems  
Address: 2481 Meteor Stream Ter, 89044  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide any feedback you have regarding the proposed construction of a paved access road to Sloan Canyon NCA in the vicinity of Petroglyph Canyon.

- 1) Do you have any specific resource/environmental concerns regarding this proposal? If so, what are they?

*Not clear on defacement/vandalism prevention of petroglyphs*

- 2) Do you have any concerns regarding any features in the proposed design? If so, what are they?

- 3) What other feedback would you like to provide?

**\*\*Comments can be emailed to: [bwarner@blm.gov](mailto:bwarner@blm.gov)**

**\*\*Mail comments to: 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130**

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# Sloan Canyon Access Road Comment Form

Name: Craig Stearnson  
Address: 3007 N. Howard St.  
Las Vegas, NV 89108

Please provide any feedback you have regarding the proposed construction of a paved access road to Sloan Canyon NCA in the vicinity of Petroglyph Canyon.

- 1) Do you have any specific resource/environmental concerns regarding this proposal? If so, what are they?

*None*

- 2) Do you have any concerns regarding any features in the proposed design? If so, what are they?

*No. Agree with Proposed Plan.*

- 3) What other feedback would you like to provide?

*Move fuel away from the water development (Mojave #2).*

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\*\*Mail comments to: 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130

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## Sloan Canyon Access Road Comment Form

Name:

DAN ALTMAN

Address:

255 E. Larson Ln #7  
Henderson, NV 89044

Please provide any feedback you have regarding the proposed construction of a paved access road to Sloan Canyon NCA in the vicinity of Petroglyph Canyon.

1) Do you have any specific resource/environmental concerns regarding this proposal? If so, what are they? street lighting, light pollution

2) Do you have any concerns regarding any features in the proposed design? If so, what are they? Same as Above -

3) What other feedback would you like to provide?

**\*\*Comments can be emailed to: [bwarner@blm.gov](mailto:bwarner@blm.gov)**

**\*\*Mail comments to: 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130**

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## Sloan Canyon Access Road Comment Form

Name: DUANE SMITH & PERRI TIGGEMAN

Address: 328 HUTCHINS LN.

HENDERSON, NV 89074

Please provide any feedback you have regarding the proposed construction of a paved access road to Sloan Canyon NCA in the vicinity of Petroglyph Canyon.

- 1) Do you have any specific resource/environmental concerns regarding this proposal? If so, what are they?

WHAT LEVEL OF ACCESS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THE GUIDED TOURS?  
THE UPPER CANYON TO PETROGLYPH CANYON IS ACCESSABLE BY ROCK SCRAMBLING  
SO AS LONG AS NONE OF THE CANYON IS ALTERED IT'S A GOOD IDEA.

- 2) Do you have any concerns regarding any features in the proposed design? If so, what are they?

WILL THE EXISTING ROAD BE REMEDIATED?

- 3) What other feedback would you like to provide?

\*\*Comments can be emailed to: [bwarner@blm.gov](mailto:bwarner@blm.gov)

\*\*Mail comments to: 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130

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## Sloan Canyon Access Road Comment Form

Name: E. Hodge  
Address: 2836 Belmont Drive  
Henderson, NV 89074

Please provide any feedback you have regarding the proposed construction of a paved access road to Sloan Canyon NCA in the vicinity of Petroglyph Canyon.

- 1) Do you have any specific resource/environmental concerns regarding this proposal? If so, what are they?

Sloan Canyon is a major resource with a rich history of Native

- 2) Do you have any concerns regarding any features in the proposed design? If so, what are they?  
American use. BLM must protect the site  
Like most, I have concerns (considerable) regarding graffiti and other vandalism that occurs at similar sites in So. Nevada.

- 3) What other feedback would you like to provide?  
Strategically located video cameras, remotely monitored may be necessary.

\*\*Comments can be emailed to: [bwarner@blm.gov](mailto:bwarner@blm.gov)

\*\*Mail comments to: 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130

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## Comments on Proposed Construction of a Paved Access Road to Sloan Canyon NCA

I attended the BLM public meeting October 1 and was told the BLM is seeking input on the Paved Sloan Access Road. I have the following comments. Thanks for your consideration. George R.

1. If BLM decides to proceed with a paved road, I feel Alternative 1 offers the best route due to providing a better location for the future Visitor Center with excellent views of the NCA and Las Vegas Valley. This may encourage use for educational purposes by both visitors and schools due to a more interesting location experience.
2. The presentation of alternative 1 showed construction of a trail from the ridgetop parking area down to the prior parking area for the existing dirt road and access to the wash #100 trail to Petroglyph Canyon. While you indicate retaining the existing wash trail and building a trail down to it from the new parking area, I suggest a more interesting alternative would be following the ridgetop existing road incursion and making it into a trail that drops down into the wash just before the kiosk and joins the 100 trail at that point. This has the same advantage of views as placing the contact station on the ridgetop and is much less “trudgy” than walking in a sandy wash. It could also ultimately serve as a trail showcasing local plants and educational exhibits. Further, it would be easier to limit access to times when the contact station is open.
3. At the meeting it was mentioned that consideration is being given to a fence and gate across the new road just south of the point where the new paved road crosses the power line road. I strongly suggest consideration of placing the fence and gate between the new paved parking area and the contact station and also around the parking area instead, for the following reasons.
  - a. It will be impractical to time the locking and unlocking of the gate with usage of trails in the area serviced by the trailhead. The proposed hours for the contact station do not correspond to hours of usage by hikers who may be going to other destinations besides petroglyph canyon. Hikes to many destinations in the wilderness area require starting earlier or finishing later than contact station hours and the contact station is not even open during the summer weekdays.
  - b. There are many access incursion routes that go around the access road entry. This means those who want to get in will still be able to do so. It only interferes with users that conform to the rules, not those who don't. You would be penalizing those who you want to enjoy the NCA while providing little real benefit to petroglyph protection. The contact station is already a half mile out from the previous drivable trailhead location at the kiosk.
  - c. People who end up with their car locked inside the gate will be likely to create damage to plants and scar the surface on their way out, when they are angry at having to drive cross-country to get around the gate.
  - d. Hikers who want to access the 101 trail or destinations like Sheep Peak or Sutor via the Duck Creek route will want an earlier start and you will be adding an extra mile round trip to an already long hiking route.
  - e. Trail monitors and site stewards should be able to park closer to the areas they have volunteered to cover. That work often is done at odd hours.
  - f. This location may not work once the adjacent disposal land is sold and not under control of the BLM. This would be especially true if the road is a shared access route to Gateway Park, something I

strongly suggest as they should have complementary roles in NCA access and education. Thus any investment in a fence and gate at that location could ultimately be lost.

- g. Wherever a gate and fence is to be located, I suggest you meet with a focus group of actual frequent users of that access route prior to making specific plans. Any fence and gate should still allow unrestricted access to areas besides Petroglyph Canyon.
4. There was no discussion of plans for maintaining access during construction. I suggest that, to the extent possible, construction plans allow for access from Democracy to the power line road access point just west of the detention basin drain channel and east of the intended connection of the new paved access road. That power line road can then be used to access the existing dirt access road to the lower parking area. Since that existing road is east of the planned paved road for its entire length in alternative 1, it may be possible to use it during grading and paving if the construction equipment is used on and parked on the new route or its west side. With a construction corridor width of 100-200 feet this seems like it should be practical, if planned in advance. This construction is occurring during the prime NCA usage season and maintaining access will be desired by many users.
5. Construction is not scheduled to start until after Dec 3. Prior to that time it is very desirable to have access through Inspirada available using the Democracy to power line to Sloan access road route described in item 4 above. Democracy is already graded to the point where this could be done if dirt was placed over the large water pipe on the south side of Democracy. I recommend all parties (city, Inspirada, BLM) work together to accomplish this as soon as practical after the Democracy grading has moved further to the west. This will save many people a very long and bumpy drive in from the west end of the power line road, including site stewards and trail monitors as well as BLM rangers. It will also increase the safety of Sloan visitors by allowing the Henderson Fire Department trails rescue vehicle easy access to the trailhead and beyond. There has been one rescue occurrence in that area just recently. It would seem practical to accomplish this very quickly. (I do not recommend publicizing it however. Wait for the contact station for any publicity.)
6. It was stated at the meeting that the project end date of Feb 29, 2016 may not include the contact station, although it was expected that the contact station could be in place very quickly. I suggest that the contact station be planned for placement and completion no later than within 2 weeks of a usable route for installation. Conceivably this could even be prior to paving if the grading and compacting is adequate. I suggest not announcing and opening the paved road until the contact station is done.
7. It is mentioned many times in the document that connection to Henderson water is not possible. It is mentioned that a well could be drilled. I suggest that another review of water availability be done with the city, including consideration of a recirculating pump driven water line loop. With stated ground water depth exceeding 500 feet listed in the document, it may well be less expensive, including the cost of pump and pipe, to use city water from the water reservoir located very nearby, rather than drilling a well. The pump could resolve the elevation difference and the recirculation could keep the water fresh. Continued use of hauled water could also be evaluated.
8. Electrical utilities are indicated as coming from the city down the median strip next to the trail. If so these should be buried. I suggest evaluation of a solar power alternative at the visitor facility before any decision is made.

# Sloan Canyon Access Road Comment Form

Name: Jaina Moan

Address: 975 Seven Hills Dr. #1321  
Henderson, NV 89052

Please provide any feedback you have regarding the proposed construction of a paved access road to Sloan Canyon NCA in the vicinity of Petroglyph Canyon.

- 1) Do you have any specific resource/environmental concerns regarding this proposal? If so, what are they?

The petroglyphs are vulnerable to vandalism. Please install additional signage at the gate ~~road~~ and trailhead that informs visitors of the fines for damaging ~~and~~ cultural resources. These signs need to be prominent and numerous, or they won't be effective. Signage should

- 2) Do you have any concerns regarding any features in the proposed design? If so, what are they?

→ also state that the area is patrolled. If possible, video cameras should be installed at the entrance to the trailhead and signs that indicate that the area is under video surveillance.

- 3) What other feedback would you like to provide?

Preventative action is better than having to clean it up later.

\*\*Comments can be emailed to: [bwarner@blm.gov](mailto:bwarner@blm.gov)

\*\*Mail comments to: 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130

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Sloan Canyon Access Road  
Comment Form

Name: JANIS SHANTA

Address: 1853 LEMON GROVE ST  
HENDERSON, NV 89052

(SUN CITY HENDERSON)  
SENIOR COMMUNITY

PHONE 702-269-0078

Please provide any feedback you have regarding the proposed construction of a paved access road to Sloan Canyon NCA in the vicinity of Petroglyph Canyon.

I LIKE THE PROPOSAL

1) Do you have any specific resource/environmental concerns regarding this proposal? If so, what are they?

BE SURE TO "CARRY OUT" ANY BOTTLES, WRAPPERS PAPER, ETC. THAT YOU "CARRIED IN"

2) Do you have any concerns regarding any features in the proposed design? If so, what are they?

TEMPORARILY PLAN SEEMS FINE + CAN BE TWEAKED AS YOU GO

3) What other feedback would you like to provide?

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE "MILE MARKERS" ON THE ACTUAL TRAIL. A BONUS OF MARKERS ON ACCESS PAVED TRAIL TO PARKING AREA

MARKERS 0-1/4 1/2 3/4 1. 1.25 1.50 ETC

\*\*Comments can be emailed to: [bwarner@blm.gov](mailto:bwarner@blm.gov)

\*\*Mail comments to: 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130

THANK YOU

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#### 2015-2016 Officers

President: Brett Jefferson  
Vice President: Joe Mercer  
Treasurer: Michelle Mercer  
Secretary: Phillip Luchetta



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Bill Halvorsen  
Ron Lurie  
Marc Maynard  
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Craig Stevenson  
Lynn Stockman

10/15/2015

#### **BLM Southern Nevada District Office**

Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area  
4701 North Torrey Pines Drive,  
Las Vegas, NV 89130

Subject: Comments: Developments at Sloan Canyon NCA

Dear Ms. Warner;

The Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn has worked with and supported the Bureau of Land Management and other natural resource agencies in southern Nevada for over 50 years. We are pleased to see initial development of the Petroglyph Canyon area of the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area. The Fraternity supports the Preferred Alternative for the access to this area.

During the presentation for the proposed action, Bureau representatives recognized that improving access will increase use of the trails in the area and there will be a need for greater law enforcement presence. The Fraternity agrees and strongly supports the efforts to secure permanent personnel and offers any assistance you may require in this area.

In light of the potential for increased trail use, the Fraternity strongly recommends that the Bureau immediately make a correction to the Hidden Valley Trail (Trail 300) in the vicinity of the Poppy Wildlife Water Development.

On Page 18 of the *Approved Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement and the Record of Decision (RMP) of 2006*:

WLD 16: The development of developments (such as trails) near wildlife water (guzzlers) is prohibited within a 1/4-mile radius of the guzzler.”

Not only does the Hidden Valley trail approach the Poppy Wildlife Water Development closer than ¼ mile, but the approach through a saddle at 3,623 feet elevation affords hikers a view of the development and the wildlife trails which radiate outward from intense summer wildlife use.

While Section 3.2.2 of the *Decision for Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area (NCA) Trails Master Plan (NEPA 2009-292 CASE LLNVSO2000)* states:

*“The project team consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Nevada Division (sic Department) of Wildlife (NDOW) throughout the scoping and alternatives development processes to identify and address wildlife concerns, including the location of proposed trails relative to established wildlife water improvements (guzzlers) in the NCA and potential for impacts to the federally listed desert tortoise.”*

NDOW biologists both in the field and in written comments notified the Bureau that the trail was unacceptably closer than allowed in the NCA Plan. It was disingenuous to portray this as a “concern” in the trails plan when the RMP identified this as something which was not allowed.

It must be noted that NDOW’s concerns were ignored and the Master Plan merely notes in Section 2.4.2 that:

*“Crucial wildlife areas, such as bighorn sheep lambing grounds, migration routes, mineral licks, and areas near permanent water sources, will receive maximum habitat protection. Excessive use by recreationists will be regulated on major desert bighorn use areas. The BLM will monitor trail use near the Poppy Guzzler to for effects on wildlife; should trail use near the guzzler be determined to have negative impacts on wildlife in the area, the BLM will pursue corrective actions such as realignment of the trail or seasonal closures.”*

In working with NDOW biologists in the area, the Fraternity has discovered that a monitoring camera at the Poppy Wildlife Water Development recorded around 25 people and a dog visiting the project over a five month cool season period in 2013 and 2014. (WLD 19 identifies that no dogs are allowed in the wilderness). It is understandable that hikers using the trail could confuse the trails created by wildlife during heavy summer use period could be confused with the appropriate trail. We believe that this deleterious activity is compounded by hikers being able to see the project and the wildlife trails.

We do not believe that the proper course of action is to take a chance that improving access to the Petroglyph Canyon will not result in increased activity on this trail. Neither is it prudent to wait until negative impacts to wildlife are demonstrated by monitoring. The Fraternity requests that the Bureau consider NDOW observations as collaborative monitoring. The first opportunity for proactive management has been lost. This is a second opportunity to take action for wildlife in the NCA.

We suggest that a “correction” to the Hidden Valley Trail be undertaken as initially identified in the Trails Master Plan on Map 9. On the map there are two identified “Deviations.” It would be

appropriate and effective to reroute the existing trail between the deviations, so the trail passes to the west of the small hill in this area, rather than to the east side, as it currently exists. This correction is shown as a blue line. We also strongly suggest that small signs identify the existing wildlife trails as trails for wildlife use only.

Not only would Fraternity members be willing to help the Bureau and NDOW identify the new route, we could possibly assist in the building of the new route and rehabilitation of the existing route.

Sincerely,  
Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn

Joe Mercer, Vice President

Cc: Ms. Robbie McAboy, Red Rock/Sloan Field Office Manager

October 12, 2015

Bureau of Land Management, Southern Nevada District  
4791 N. Torrey Pines Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89130  
[bwarner@blm.gov](mailto:bwarner@blm.gov)

Re: Sloan Canyon Access Road Project

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the EA for the Sloan Canyon Access Road project. While we generally support the effort to improve public access to Sloan Canyon we do have some concerns with specific parts of the project.

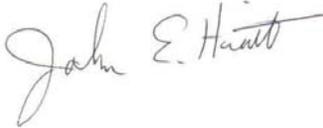
The initial concern is with the access road itself. It appears that plans call for a disturbance area significantly larger than the road itself with subsequent rehab of the excess disturbed area. In the Mojave Desert it is far easier to avoid disturbance than to try and remediate it. The idea of using container grown plants to re-establish the native creosote and bursage is fanciful. Unless an irrigation system is planned, which seems unlikely, it is unlikely that any of the container grown plants will survive. Since the width of the road plus pedestrian trail is over 60 feet there will be adequate space to confine the construction activities to the road itself and just a few feet on either side and avoid the cost and probable failure the remediation effort. Also, it is not evident that the proposed system of curb cuts will adequately address the issue of drainage. The space between the roadway and the pedestrian trail is likely to become an erosion channel due to the fall line alignment of the road and an inadequate area for water absorption.

A second, and more important issue is resource protection. Increased access without increased protection almost guarantees that there will be damage and loss of an irreplaceable resource, namely the petroglyphs in Sloan Canyon. The statement that an additional law enforcement person will be added to the staff is little comfort. The Southern Nevada BLM District has not had a full law enforcement staff for years and is unlikely to have that anytime in the near future. The additional ranger will be part of the staff and will be dispatched to wherever needed just like the other law enforcement personnel.

The idea that site stewards will actually provide protection is not well founded. Site stewards are specifically not authorized to contact visitors. They can document the destruction of the resource but provide little in the way of protection. The hours of operation of the contact station seem to be for the convenience of the employees or volunteers and not geared toward resource protection. In Summer most visitors will have come and gone before the staff arrives at 8:00AM Friday through Sunday. The unsupervised parking area adjacent to the contact station, which is in fairly close proximity to an urban area but not visible from a frequently used road, is an invitation to young people looking for a place to party and cause trouble. The problems associated with the Sunrise Trailhead at the Clark County Wetlands Park is an example of good intentions gone awry.

We recognize that the managers of the Sloan Canyon NCA must deal with the political decisions which didn't provide an adequate buffer for the Sloan Canyon petroglyphs and the challenges posed by the funding mechanism for the NCA, but protection of the resources that led to the NCA designation must be paramount as we move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John E. Hiatt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a distinct 'E'.

John E, Hiatt  
Conservation Chair  
Red Rock Audubon Society  
8180 Placid Street  
Las Vegas, NV 89123  
702-361-1171

## Sloan Canyon Access Road Comment Form

Name: Joyce Saunders  
Address: 3020 Monroe Park Rd  
Henderson NV 89052

Please provide any feedback you have regarding the proposed construction of a paved access road to Sloan Canyon NCA in the vicinity of Petroglyph Canyon.

1) Do you have any specific resource/environmental concerns regarding this proposal? If so, what are they? NO

2) Do you have any concerns regarding any features in the proposed design? If so, what are they? NO

3) What other feedback would you like to provide?

Paved access is important to me. Also protecting the Sloan Cyn. I believe it to be a good plan - The sooner the better.

\*\*Comments can be emailed to: [bwarner@blm.gov](mailto:bwarner@blm.gov)

\*\*Mail comments to: 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130

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Warner, Brenda <bwarner@blm.gov>

---

**sloan canyon**

1 message

---

snore1600rep@aol.com <snore1600rep@aol.com>  
To: bwarner@blm.gov

Tue, Sep 29, 2015 at 3:43 PM

**when the sloan canyon recreation area was established in 2002 it took out parts of the SNORE race track in eldorodo valley that had been used since 1976 . the blm needs to turn that part of the track into an OHV trail for recreational OHV use .**

ken freeman

# Sloan Canyon Access Road Comment Form

RECEIVED BLM  
SOUTHERN NEVADA  
DISTRICT OFFICE

2015 OCT -7 P 2:07

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Ms. Michelle Yaras  
21 Brandermill Dr  
Henderson, NV 89052

Please provide any feedback you have regarding the proposed construction of a paved access road to Sloan Canyon NCA in the vicinity of Petroglyph Canyon.

- 1) Do you have any specific resource/environmental concerns regarding this proposal? If so, what are they?

NO

- 2) Do you have any concerns regarding any features in the proposed design? If so, what are they?

NO

- 3) What other feedback would you like to provide?

I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO THE COMPLETION OF  
THIS PROJECT. GREAT JOB!!  
I AM ALSO LOOKING FORWARD TO MORE IMPROVEMENTS.

\*\*Comments can be emailed to: [bwarner@blm.gov](mailto:bwarner@blm.gov)

\*\*Mail comments to: 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130

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Warner, Brenda &lt;bwarner@blm.gov&gt;

---

## Sloan Cyn Access Road

1 message

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**Paul Renois** <renoispj@yahoo.com>

Fri, Oct 2, 2015 at 3:04 PM

Reply-To: Paul Renois &lt;renoispj@yahoo.com&gt;

To: Brenda Warner &lt;bwarner@blm.gov&gt;

Brenda: I am Paul Renois; you may remember me. I am the Regional Coordinator of the site stewards for Sloan Canyon. I attended the open house on the proposed plans for the access road to Sloan and would like to respond to the questions on the comment form.

1) Do you have any specific resource/environmental concerns regarding this proposal?

I support the first proposal of a gated access road and visitor center located to the west of the present parking area. My main concern is the size of the access road and the parking spaces. Even at the best of times, Sloan doesn't get the traffic of Red Rock. So keeping parking spaces to a minimum (20) would be adequate. Any more would just have a greater detrimental impact on the desert.

2) Do you have any concerns regarding any features in the proposed design?

Again, Sloan is not Red Rock. It does not have the overall appeal and accessibility of Red Rock. A visitor center with meeting rooms and gift shop would not be in line with Sloan's wilderness attraction and identity. I would strongly recommend against an agency presence that approaches Disneyland. Facilities should reflect the primary needs of our visitors: water, toilets and information.

3) What other feedback would you like to provide?

My only other comments are really concerns for the management of the cultural resources. I understand that Friends of Sloan Canyon will be staffing the visitor's center and also leading tours as docents. These things are quite appropriate and will help the BLM in presenting the wonders of Sloan to the public. The site stewards, however, are tasked in a different way. Our concerns are not with the trails, but with the conservation of the petroglyphs, structures and artifacts of Sloan. I have already spoken to Robbie and she agrees that there has to be some distinction of roles of the various volunteers. I realize that things are in a state of planning and that everything is a work in progress. The physical infrastructure will make things more accessible; but the human component in the form of the volunteers will make things work more smoothly if done correctly.

I hope that my comments help in the development of Sloan Canyon NCA. It is a unique place with a special history that spans thousands of years. It can be developed so that more of the public can experience and enjoy its wonders, but we must also work to conserve its cultural treasures.

Thank you for considering my comments

## **Part 3. Response to Public Comments**

## **Butch Spears**

Comment 1: Commenter questioned whether the BLM was "telling us the whole story" and indicated that the BLM is only interested in money.

*As stated in Section 1.4 of the EA, the proposed action is needed to better serve and protect cultural and natural resources while enhancing recreational experiences of visitors and managing usage at sustainable levels in light of increasing visitations to the NCA. The need for development of such facilities was articulated in the Sections 2.2.3 and 2.2.8 of the RMP and Sections 3 and 4.2 of the NMWMP.*

## **Carol Wilhems**

Comment 1: Commenter expressed concern that graffiti and other vandalism would deface petroglyphs within Sloan Canyon. Commenter recommended installation of remote video cameras and monitoring.

*The BLM is cognizant of the need to protect cultural resources within Sloan Canyon in light of expected increase visitations to the NCA. The project would implement strategies from the RMP and NMWMP. As stated in Section 1.4 and Section 2.1.6 of the EA, cultural resources within the Petroglyph Management Area would be protected through a combination of measures including managing usage pursuant to thresholds identified in the RMP and NMWMP; monitoring by Rangers, BLM staff and volunteers; and implementation of an interpretive program. These strategies in concert would minimize the potential for vandalism. Furthermore, the BLM has sufficient funding in Fiscal Year 2016 to augment staffing needs at a level appropriate to adequately protect cultural resources within the Petroglyph Management Area.*

## **Don Autum**

Comment 1: Commenter expressed concern that street lighting on NPR contributing to light pollution.

*No street lighting is proposed for NPR as part of this project. As stated in Section 2.1.6 of the EA, both the contact station and the gate across NPR would close after 4:30 pm.*

## **Duane Smith & Perri Tiggeman**

Comment 1: Commenters inquired about the level of access that will be provided for guided tours.

*The BLM manages the Petroglyph Management Area to minimize impacts on wilderness characteristics and natural resources of the area. To that end, Section 2.2.3 of the RMP states that "visitors must join a BLM-sponsored tour" to access the Petroglyph Management Area on weekends. The plan also states that "no more than one guided group of no more than 20 people are allowed in the Petroglyph Management Area at one time." However, pursuant to guidance in the RMP, BLM would adjust use thresholds as appropriate based on monitoring results. Once within Sloan Canyon, access to and use of the Petroglyph Management Area is confined to the canyon bottom and a limited number of side trails.*

Comment 2: Commenters inquired whether the existing access road to Sloan Canyon would be remediated.

*As stated in Section 2.1.4 of the Environmental Assessment, segments of the unpaved access road outside of the construction footprint would be restored. Holes would be augered within disturbed areas for the planting of live creosote bush plants and vertical mulch such as dead Yucca. Berms on both sides of the roadway would be leveled. Appropriately-sized large, medium and smaller rocks for this specific area would be placed within the disturbance area to restore a natural vista. Appropriately colored (the coloration in the area is black rocks on light brown soil) desert varnish would be applied to replicate the natural coloration in the area.*

### **Craig Stevenson**

Comment 1: Commenter requested that the Hidden Valley Trail (Trail 300) be moved away from the Poppy Wildlife Water Development.

*The BLM is cognizant of Hidden Valley Trail's alignment within the vicinity of the Poppy Wildlife Water Development. To this end, the construction of the trail was approved as part of the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area Trails Master Plan. Furthermore, the proposed action within this Environmental Assessment is strictly limited to the construction of Nawghaw Poa Road, parking areas and visitor amenities.*

### **E. Hodge**

Comment 1: Commenter expressed concern that graffiti and other vandalism would deface petroglyphs within Sloan Canyon. Commenter recommended installation of remote video cameras and monitoring.

*The BLM is cognizant of the need to protect cultural resources within Sloan Canyon in light of expected increase visitations to the NCA. The project would implement strategies from the RMP and NMWMMP. As stated in Section 1.4 and Section 2.1.6 of the EA, cultural resources within the Petroglyph Management Area would be protected through a combination of measures including managing usage pursuant to thresholds identified in the RMP and NMWMP; monitoring by Rangers, BLM staff and volunteers; and implementation of an interpretive program. These strategies in concert would minimize the potential for vandalism. Furthermore, the BLM has sufficient funding in Fiscal Year 2016 to augment staffing needs at a level appropriate to adequately protect cultural resources within the Petroglyph Management Area.*

### **Jaina Moon**

Comment 1: Commenter expressed concern that graffiti and other vandalism would deface petroglyphs within Sloan Canyon. Commenter recommended installation of remote video cameras and monitoring.

*The BLM is cognizant of the need to protect cultural resources within Sloan Canyon in light of expected increase visitations to the NCA. The project would implement strategies from the RMP and NMWMMP. As stated in Section 1.4 and Section 2.1.6 of the EA, cultural resources within the Petroglyph Management Area would be protected through a*

*combination of measures including managing usage pursuant to thresholds identified in the RMP and NMWMP; monitoring by Rangers, BLM staff and volunteers; and implementation of an interpretive program. These strategies in concert would minimize the potential for vandalism. Furthermore, the BLM has sufficient funding in Fiscal Year 2016 to augment staffing needs at a level appropriate to adequately protect cultural resources within the Petroglyph Management Area.*

### **Janet Shanta**

Comment 1: Commenter expressed support for the project.

*BLM expresses thanks for the support.*

Comment 2: Commenter expressed need to advise visitors to carry out any bottles, wrappers, paper, etc. brought into Petroglyph Management Area.

*Elements of the proposed project that would work to reduce trash include placement of trash receptacles at the contact station. Basic orientation and education materials as well as in-person interaction with BLM staff, Rangers and other volunteer staff would reinforce the need for visitors to minimize trash within the Petroglyph Management Area.*

Comment 3: Commenter requested placement of mile markers on established trails.

*The proposed action within this Environmental Assessment is strictly limited to the construction of Nawghaw Poa Road, parking areas and visitor amenities. Placement of mile markers on established trails would be outside the scope of the proposed action.*

### **Joyce Saunders**

Comment 1: Commenter expressed support for the project.

*BLM expresses thanks for the support.*

### **Ken Freeman**

Comment 1: Commenter requested conversion of the SNORE racetrack in El Dorado Valley for OHV use.

*The proposed action within this Environmental Assessment is strictly limited to the construction of Nawghaw Poa Road, parking areas and visitor amenities. Establishment of OHV trails would be outside the scope of the proposed action.*

### **Michelle Yaras**

Comment 1: Commenter expressed support for the project.

*BLM expresses thanks for the support.*

### **John Hiatt (Red Rock Audubon Society)**

Comment 1: Commenter expressed support for the project.

*BLM expresses thanks for the support.*

Comment 2: Commenter is concerned that the area of temporary disturbance is substantially larger than the proposed road itself. Because it is easier to avoid disturbance in the Mojave Desert than to remediate disturbed areas, Commenter urged that construction be confined to the immediate area around the road itself.

*Although the width of the construction corridor would range from 100 to 200 feet, it is unlikely that the entire 200 foot width would be required for construction. The 200 foot width was proposed in the EA primarily to accommodate potential adjustments to the road alignment during construction. The width of the construction corridor is expected to be approximately 100 feet in width: 50 foot wide road with two 25-foot-wide corridors on either side of the proposed road. Section 2.1.1 of the EA has been updated with this clarification.*

Comment 3: Commenter expressed concern that the proposed curb cuts would not be sufficient to drain surface flows and that the median between the pedestrian pathway and the roadway would become an erosion channel.

*The roadway curb has been deepened to 18 inches. The increased depth would be sufficient to capture most runoff.*

Comment 4: Commenter stated need to protect cultural resources within the Petroglyph Management Area. Furthermore, commenter expressed concerns that BLM would not be able to provide adequate protection to cultural resources given funding constraints.

*The BLM is cognizant of the need to protect cultural resources within Sloan Canyon in light of expected increase visitations to the NCA. The project would implement strategies from the RMP and NMWMP. As stated in Section 1.4 and Section 2.1.6 of the EA, cultural resources within the Petroglyph Management Area would be protected through a combination of measures including managing usage pursuant to thresholds identified in the RMP and NMWMP; monitoring by Rangers, BLM staff and volunteers; and implementation of an interpretive program. These strategies in concert would minimize the potential for vandalism.*

*The BLM has sufficient funding in Fiscal Year 2016 to augment staffing needs at a level appropriate to adequately protect cultural resources within the Petroglyph Management Area.*

## **Paul Renois**

Comment 1: Commenter expressed support for the project but would like to limit parking spaces to a minimum (approximately 20).

*BLM expresses thanks for the support. The parking area is designed for 20 parking spaces with an additional area for oversized parking.*

Comment 2: Commenter would like to limit the visitor center to basic necessities such as water, toilets and information kiosks and avoid construction of a multi-use visitor center

including gift shops as these facilities would not be in line with the wilderness and cultural resources at the Sloan Canyon NCA.

*The current proposed action would place temporary amenities including but not limited to a contact station, information kiosk, portable restrooms, potable water supply, bicycle racks, and trash receptacles on site. No permanent facilities would be constructed as part of the proposed action.*

*As articulated in the RMP for the Sloan Canyon NCA and the Sloan Canyon NCA Implementation Management Strategy, the BLM is cognizant of the natural and cultural resources within Sloan Canyon. As discussed in the BLM Sloan Canyon NCA Implementation Management Strategy, the temporary contact station would be replaced with an expanded visitor facility as part of a future project. The expanded facility would be approximately 2,500 square feet. In addition to functioning as a visitor contact station, the expanded facility would support several additional uses, including indoor exhibits on the natural and cultural history of Sloan Canyon, a small auditorium for interpretive presentations and other events, indoor classrooms, and public restrooms. Small conferences and other educational events could be accommodated at the center. Incorporation of a small gift shop as part of the facility remains a possibility. As with the gift shop at Red Rock Canyon NCA, all proceeds would fund conservation efforts.*

Comment 4: Commenter delineated specific roles that volunteer site stewards would play in preserving the cultural resources within the Petroglyph Management Area, and emphasized the need for BLM delineate roles and functions of the volunteer site stewards.

*The BLM is cognizant of the need to protect cultural resources within Sloan Canyon in light of expected increase visitations to the NCA. As stated in Section 1.4 and Section 2.1.6 of the EA, cultural resources within the Petroglyph Management Area would be protected through a combination of measures including managing usage pursuant to thresholds identified in the RMP and NMWMP; monitoring by Rangers, BLM staff and volunteers; and implementation of an interpretive program. These strategies in concert would minimize the potential for vandalism. Furthermore, the BLM has sufficient funding in Fiscal Year 2016 to augment staffing needs at a level appropriate to adequately protect cultural resources within the Petroglyph Management Area.*

*The BLM concurs that delineation of roles and functions of volunteer site stewards would facilitate implementation of the coordination strategy above. To that end, the BLM would continue to coordinate with volunteer site stewards.*

**Joe Mercer (Vice President, Fraternity of the Desert Big Horn)**

Comment 1: Commenter expressed support for the project.

*BLM expresses thanks for the support.*

Comment 2: Commenter noted that the alignment of Hidden Valley Trail near the Poppy Wildlife Water Development differs from guidelines in the RMP. Commenter is concerned that with increased visitations to the Petroglyph Management Area use of the

Hidden Valley Trail would increase, resulting in disturbance of the Poppy Wildlife Water Development.

*The BLM is cognizant of Hidden Valley Trail's alignment within the vicinity of the Poppy Wildlife Water Development. To this end, the construction of the trail was approved as part of the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area Trails Master Plan. Furthermore, the proposed action within this Environmental Assessment is strictly limited to the construction of Nawghaw Poa Road, parking areas and visitor amenities.*

## **George Reyling**

Comment 1: Commenter expresses support for Alternative 1 since it offer the best route to providing a better location for the future visitor center with excellent views of the NCA and Las Vegas Valley.

*The BLM is cognizant of the viewing benefits offered by Alternative 1 and has designated Alternative 1 as the Preferred Alternative within the EA.*

Comment 2: Commenter recommended an alternate alignment for the connector trail from the proposed contact station to Trail 100.

*The BLM will evaluate the alternative connector trail alignment as part of a future project for the placement of a permanent visitor center.*

Comment 3: Commenter recommended the vehicle gate at the terminus of NPR near intersection with Democracy Drive the relocated between the parking lot and the contact station to facilitate visitors who may want to visit the Petroglyph Management Area prior to the contact station operating hours. The design as currently proposed would prevent cars from leaving after the gates have closed.

*Visitors arriving to the site prior to the contact station operating hours would need to find appropriate parking off-site but could still access the Petroglyph Management Area via the pedestrian pathway. The design of the gate has been modified such that the gate would span only the entrance lane. A traffic spike would be placed on the exit lane to allow for after-hour exit and prevent after-hour parking. Section 2.1.1 of the EA has been updated with this design modification.*

Comment 4: Commenter recommended maintaining access to Petroglyph Management Area during construction.

*A temporary pedestrian pathway would be established within the 200 foot wide construction corridor to allow access to the Petroglyph Management Area during construction.*

Comment 5: Commenter recommended implementing improvements to Democracy Drive to facilitate access to Sloan Canyon NCA prior to initiation of construction in early December 2015.

*Worked and improvements to Democracy Drive are under the jurisdiction of the city of Henderson and is outside the scope of the proposed action.*

Comment 6: Commenter requested that the contact station be placed no later than two weeks prior to the completion of NPR. Commenter suggested that NPR should not be open for public use until the contact station is in place.

*NPR would not be open for public use until of the contact station is in place.*

Comment 7: Commenter suggested the BLM coordinate with the city of Henderson to determine whether water to the contact station could be delivered via existing water lines from the city of Henderson. Commenter also suggested continued evaluation of hauling water.

*Connections to existing water lines in the city of Henderson as well as hauling water are outside the scope of the proposed action. However, the BLM would further evaluate these possibilities for the construction of a permanent visitor center. The proposed action primarily concerns the construction of NPR and the placement of temporary visitor amenities.*

Commenter 8: Commenter recommends burying electrical utilities and evaluating the use of solar power.

*Two 6-inch-diameter conduits with pull boxes would be buried 30 inches deep in the median for installation of utilities including electrical as part of a future project for the placement of a permanent visitor center. Buried electrical lines and use of solar power for the temporary visitor amenities are outside the scope of the proposed action.*