



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument
345 East Riverside Drive
St. George, Utah 84790
www.blm.gov/az/

January 13, 2016

In Reply Refer To:
8323 (AZ-0300)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING Pakoon Springs Public Use Environmental Assessment

An Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared (DOI-BLM-AZ-A030-2016-0004-EA) for the proposed Pakoon Springs Public Use area. The purpose of this notice is to initiate public scoping regarding issues related to resources in the project area.

The proposed project would take place at Pakoon Springs, Mojave County, Arizona (T. 35 N., R. 16 W., sec. 24 SE1/4 and E1/2SW1/4; and sec. 25 NE1/4). The purpose of the proposed action is to relocate visitor information and signage, increase protection of the springs through additional fencing, and allow for future research activities. The proposed action includes installation of a new parking area (approx. 0.10 acre), trail, signage, and pass through gates, and removal/rehabilitation of the existing parking area (approx. 0.15 acre). A wildlife friendly and low visibility fence would be installed to protect the main spring complex from feral animals. Installation of a "bat pond" is proposed to maintain the shallow open water needed for use by bats. The "bat pond" would increase available habitat for potential native species introductions. Accommodation for research and monitoring activities including, but not limited to wildlife inventories, climate monitoring and geologic mapping would be provided for.

The proposal includes design features to mitigate impacts to Mojave Desert tortoise a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The proposal design features would be consistent with the Revised Recovery Plan for the Mojave Population of the Desert Tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*). The proposed action is in conformance with the Grand Canyon – Parashant National Monument Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan/General Management Plan, approved February 2008.

The public scoping period is for 30 days, beginning on January 13, 2016 and ending February 12, 2016. Please submit any scoping comments and/or express interest in receiving notice when the EA is available for public review to Jennifer Fox, Ecologist, via email (jennifer_fox@nps.gov) or by post (Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, 345 E Riverside Dr., St. George, UT 84790, Attn: Jennifer Fox). If you have any questions, call Jennifer Fox at 435-688-3376.

By law, the names and addresses of those commenting are available for public review during regular business hours. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment; be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can request that your personal identifying information be withheld from public review, we cannot guarantee that it will be. Comments from organizations or businesses will be available for public inspection in their entirety.