



Backcountry Resources

Vegetation

Grand Canyon National Park contains over 1,750 plant species, and provides refuge for 9 species not found anywhere else in the world, and an additional 23 endemic species that extend just outside park boundaries.

Identified Vegetation Concerns

- Human-waste issues
- Poor campsite selection
- Social trailing
- Non-native and invasive plant invasion



Wildlife

With 5 major life zones spanning 1.2 million acres, the park is home to numerous rare, endemic, and specially protected species.

Identified Wildlife Concerns

- Impacts to threatened and endangered species
- Wildlife disturbance at water sources
- Disruption and change in species composition of small mammal fauna in camp areas
- Rock dams built in creeks inhibiting fish movements
- Wildlife habitat loss and degradation

Water

Riparian areas represent only 0.1% of Grand Canyon; however, 90% of all bird species and 80% of all mammal species depend on these areas. Not only do these places harbor incredible biodiversity, they provide shade, water, and food necessary in desert landscapes.

Identified Water Concerns

- Human-waste contamination
- Backcountry camping in sensitive riparian corridors
- Fewer backcountry water sources due to climate change
- Diminishing water quality in backcountry high-use areas

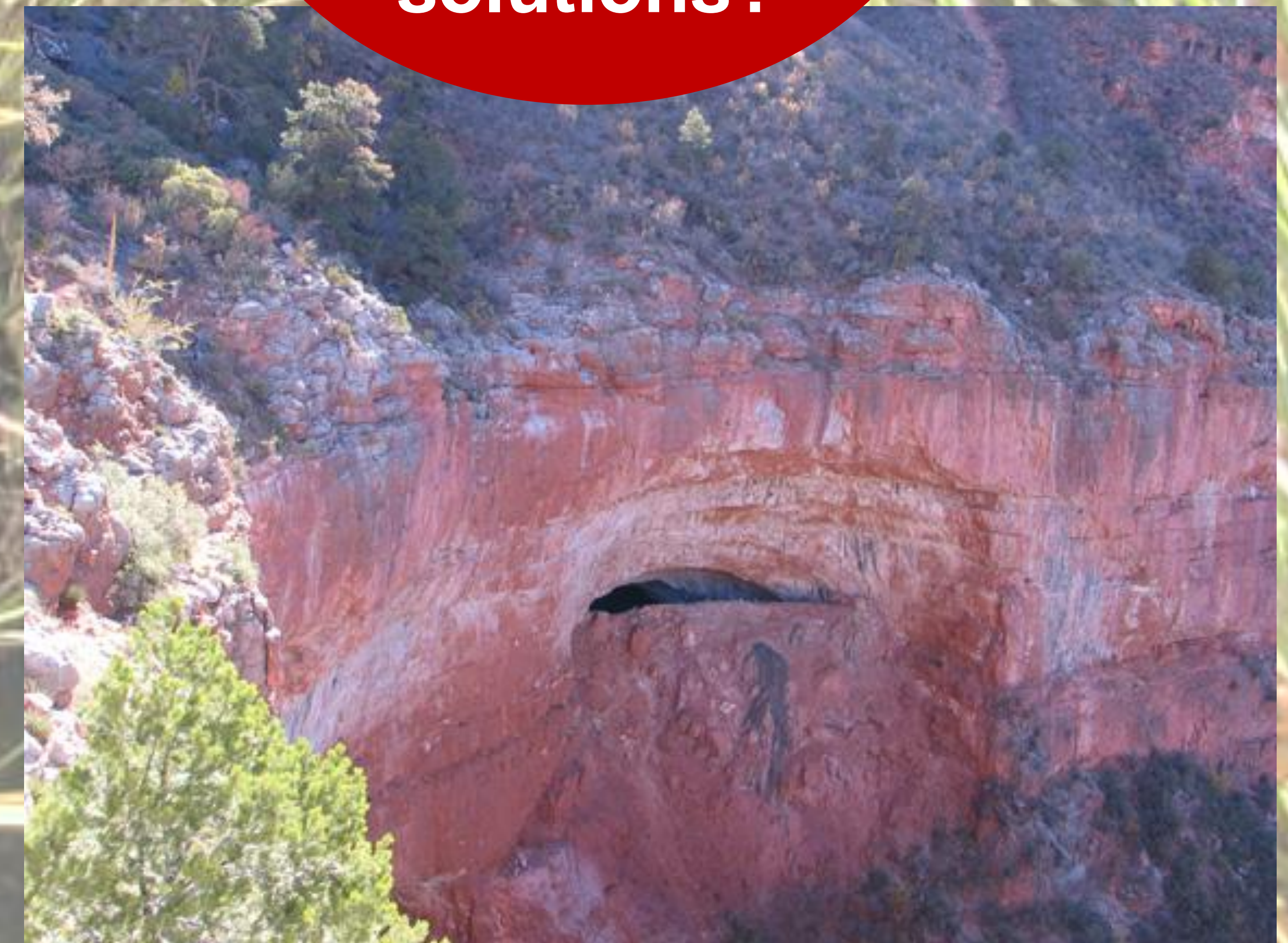
Air Quality

Clean, clear air is a fundamental resource in preserving, improving, and enjoying Grand Canyon National Park. At South Rim and Inner Canyon monitoring stations, park air-quality staff collect data so managers can make informed decisions on how to best preserve and improve this critical resource.

Identified Air-Quality Concerns

- In-park emission sources
- Visitor experience of canyon views
- Night skies enjoyment

**What are your
natural
resource
concerns and
solutions?**



Caves

Although cave and karst resources occur in Grand Canyon, these environments and resources are poorly understood. Currently, all caves, except Cave of the Domes, are closed to the public.

Identified Cave Concerns

- Cave resources are extremely fragile; one cave visit can destroy geological, biological, paleontological and archaeological resources
- Some caves hold cultural significance to native Americans, and may be Traditional Cultural Properties
- Preservation of cave wildlife and habitat