

Non-Wilderness Backcountry Areas

Although the majority of Grand Canyon's backcountry is managed as proposed wilderness, areas with enhanced infrastructure are managed to provide a more developed backcountry experience. Backcountry areas not included in the park's wilderness proposal include the Cross-Canyon Corridor and the Tuweep/Toroweap area, some dirt roads, and areas such as Point Sublime that provide opportunity for vehicle-based backcountry camping. Tuweep/Toroweap and the Cross-Canyon Corridor were considered in the 1995 General Management Plan, but management of these areas will be updated through this planning process.

Cross-Canyon Corridor

The Corridor includes the popular North Kaibab, South Kaibab and Bright Angel Trails. Corridor camping is permitted only in Cottonwood, Bright Angel, and Indian Garden Campgrounds. Limited emergency services are available at ranger stations and along trails. Backcountry toilets are located in key Corridor locations.

Concession-operated Phantom Ranch Lodge, open year-round, is the only accommodation below the rim.

Identified Corridor Concerns

- High levels of visitor use requires constant trail maintenance
- Competition for limited campground space
- Pressures from different user groups create conflicts
- High rate of health and safety incidents endangers visitors and strains emergency services



Phantom Ranch

What are your non-wilderness backcountry concerns and solutions?

Tuweep

Tuweep includes a 300-foot-wide non-wilderness road corridor and buffer around Toroweap Overlook, Vulcans Throne Trailhead, Tuweep Campground, and Tuweep Ranger Station. Access to Tuweep is by one of three dirt routes, the shortest being 60-miles long.

Despite its remote location, Tuweep receives approximately 20,000 visitors a year. Visitation is highest in spring, although numbers vary depending on road conditions.

Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis, although a large group site may be reserved. Day-use limits are a maximum of 30 vehicles or 85 visitors at one time. Total limits include visitors to Toroweap Overlook, the campground, the Vulcans Throne area, and local trails.

Identified Tuweep Concerns

- Commercial use types and levels need clarification
- Backcountry character may be compromised as use limits are exceeded

