

Grand Canyon National Park Backcountry Management Plan



Summary of Elements Specific to Action Alternative B, C, or D

| ELEMENT | ALTERNATIVE A (CURRENT) | ALTERNATIVE B (PREFERRED) | ALTERNATIVE C | ALTERNATIVE D |
|--|---|---|---|-------------------------------|
| Backcountry User Nights (Commercial and Non-Commercial) | | | | |
| Percent Change from Current by Zone | | | | |
| Corridor | 53,821 | 55,531 (+3%) | 59,421 (+10%) | 54,846 (+2%) |
| Threshold | 17,078 | 14,332 (-16%) | 19,328 (+13%) | 13,426 (-21%) |
| Primitive | 20,698 | 20,770 (0.3%) | 17,844 (-14%) | 20,650 (-0.2%) |
| Wild | 2,463 | 2,266 (-8%) | 2,463 (0%) | 2,266 (-8%) |
| Other | 217 | 217 | 217 | 217 |
| Total | 94,277 | 93,116 (-1%) | 99,273 (+5%) | 91,405 (-3%) |
| Maximum Group Size for Overnight Backpacking by Zone (Commercial and Non-Commercial) | | | | |
| (large/small) | | | | |
| Corridor | 11/6 | | | |
| Threshold | 11/6 | | | |
| Primitive | 11/6 | 6 | 11/6 | 6 |
| Wild | | | | |
| Commercial Overnight Backpacking | | | | |
| Zone Allowed | All | Corridor, Threshold, limited Primitive | Corridor, Threshold, Primitive | Corridor |
| Authorization | Unlimited CUAs | Majority managed by contracts and limited opportunity for CUAs | | |
| Permitting | Commercial trips currently | Percent of trips available to concessioners one year in advance: | | |
| | | 100% | 50% | 75% |
| | | CUA holders would | Remaining percent available to concessioners and CUA holders to | |
| make reservations through public backcountry reservation system up to four months in advance (same as non-commercial users) | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CUA used allowed up to one permit/week and no more than 100 group nights/year CUA use allowed up to 3 trips/year per operator CUA holders could charter additional trips with contract holders | | | | |
| Caps | | | | |
| No Caps | | Proposed Caps | | |
| Corridor Zone | Current Use (2012) Number of Groups/Night | | | |
| Bright Angel | Up to 5/night | 2/night; 4/month can be large | | 3/night; 6/month can be large |
| Indian Garden | Up to 4/night | 1.5/night (max 2/night 2 nights of 4); 3/month can be large | 1/night; 3/month can be large | 2/night; 3/month can be large |
| Cottonwood | Up to 4/night | | | |
| Threshold Zone | Up to 6/night | 2 small/night; 6 nights max in any Use Area/month 3 nights/month can be large | 3 small/night; 9 nights max in any Use Area/month 3 nights/month can be large | 0 |
| Primitive Zone | Up to 7/night | 1 small/night with max 3 nights in any Use Area/month | 2 small/night with max 6 nights in any Use Area/month | 0 |
| Wild Zone | Up to 18/year (no more than 1/night) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Commercial User Nights | | | | |
| Current (2012) User Nights | | Projected | | |
| Corridor | 5011 (9.3%)* | 6593 (11.9%) | 5938 (10.0%) | 9371 (17.1%) |
| Threshold | 1572 (9.2%) | 1572 (11.0%) | 2359 (12.2%) | 0 |
| Primitive | 1861 (9.0%) | 786 (3.8%) | 1572 (8.8%) | 0 |
| Wild | 94 (3.8%) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 8538 (9.1%) | 8952 (9.6%) | 9869 (9.9%) | 9371 (10.3%) |

*Commercial user nights (percent of overall use)

| ELEMENT | ALTERNATIVE A (CURRENT) | ALTERNATIVE B (PREFERRED) | ALTERNATIVE C | ALTERNATIVE D |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| Commercial Day Hiking | | | | |
| Group Size | 11, minimum of 1 guide to 7 clients (2 guides with 9 clients) | | | |
| Allowed to | Recommended Limits | Limited To | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bright Angel Trail to Three-Mile Resthouse South Kaibab Trail to Cedar Ridge North Kaibab Trail to Supai Tunnel Hermit Trail to Santa Maria or Dripping Springs Grandview Trail to designated turnaround at Coconino Saddle Tanner Trail to Escalante Saddle (75-Mile Canyon Overlook) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternatives A and B <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bright Angel Trail to Indian Garden South Kaibab Trail to Skeleton Point | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bright Angel Trail to Three-Mile Resthouse South Kaibab Trail to Cedar Ridge North Kaibab Trail to Supai Tunnel |
| Commercial Backcountry Vehicle Tours (Tuweep) | | | | |
| Maximum Trips/Day | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 2 trips/operator/day M-F Up to 1 trip/operator/day Sa-Su | Up to 2 trips/day all operators combined | Up to 3 trips/day M-F; 2 trips/day Sa-Su all operators combined | Up to 1 trip/day all operators combined |
| Non-commercial River-assisted Backcountry Travel (RABT) | | | | |
| River Travel | 5-mile limit | 31 river sections | 9 river sections | 11-mile limit |
| Day Use | Not permitted | Allowed with day use permit | | |
| Backcountry Roads, Trails, and Routes | | | | |
| South Rim Trails and Routes (Map 2.1) | | | | |
| Eremita Mesa (1.8 miles) | Unmaintained hiking route | Same as A | Class 1 Wilderness Trail | Same as A |
| Cape Solitude (12.4 miles) | | Class 1 Wilderness Trail | | |
| Boundary Road (14 miles) | | Same as A | Boundary Road open to vehicles, stock, bicycles, and hikers | Same as A |
| South Rim Roads (Map 2.4a) | | | | |
| Pasture Wash Vehicle Access | Roads across USFS, and Havasupai lands with access fee | Same as A and Boundary Road open (see above) | | Same as A |
| North Rim Trails and Routes (Map 2.1) | | | | |
| Tiyo Point (6.3 miles) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unmaintained hiking routes No stock use | Class 1 Wilderness Trail | Class 4 Wilderness Trail | Same as A |
| Francois Matthes Point (4.7 miles) | | Class 1 Wilderness Trail | | |
| Walhalla Glades (7.3 miles) | | Class 1 Wilderness Trail | | |
| Komo Point (5.2 miles) | | Same as A | Class 1 Wilderness Trail | |
| North Rim Roads (Map 2.4b) | | | | |
| Basin Road, Kanabownits Swamp and Fire Point Roads | Open to vehicles, stock, bicycles, and hikers | Open to vehicles, stock, bicycles, and hikers as part of proposed Road Natural Zone | | |
| Kanab Plateau Roads (Map 2.4c) | Road access to Kanab and SB Points, 150 Mile Canyon, and Schmutz | Road access to Kanab and SB Points, 150 Mile Canyon, and Schmutz as part of Road Natural Zone | Same as B, and convert 12 miles of former Kanab Plateau ranch roads to Class 1 Wilderness Trail | Same as B |
| Tuweep Road (Map 2.4d) | Open to vehicles, stock, bicycles, and hikers | Open to vehicles, stock, bicycles, and hikers as part of proposed Road Natural Zone | | |

| ELEMENT | ALTERNATIVE A (CURRENT) | ALTERNATIVE B (PREFERRED) | ALTERNATIVE C | ALTERNATIVE D |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Tuweep Facilities (Map 2.2 and Map 2.8) | | | | |
| Vulcans Throne Road | Open to vehicles to rim | Convert to Class 1 trail; use road junction as parking/turnaround | Same as A | Same as B |
| Overlook Parking | Adjacent to Toroweap Overlook | Move close to campground as recommended in GMP | | |
| Corridor Zone Camping (Groups/Night) | | | | |
| Indian Garden | 15 small/1 large campsites | | 15 small/2 large | Same as A |
| Bright Angel | 30 small/2 large | | | |
| Cottonwood | 11 small/1 large | up to 15 small/1 large | 15 small/2 large | up to 13 small/1 large |
| Roaring Springs | Day use only | | 2 campsites | Same as A |
| Deer Creek/Tapeats Complex (Groups/Night) | | | | |
| Esplanade (AY9) | 2 small/1 large | 3 small | 2 small/1 large | 2 small |
| Surprise Valley (AM9) | 1 small/1 large | Use area split between Deer Creek, Upper Tapeats, and Bonita Creek | | |
| Deer Creek (AX7) | 2 small or 1 large | 2 small | Same as A | 2 small |
| Upper Tapeats (AW7) | 2 small/1 large | 3 small | 3 small/1 large | 3 small |
| Lower Tapeats (AW8) | 1 small/1 large | Use area combined with Bonita Creek | | |
| Bonita Creek (AW9) | Doesn't exist | 2 small | 1 small/1 large | 1 small |
| Total Groups in Complex | 12 | 10 | 11 | 8 |
| Deer Creek Narrows | | | | |
| Narrows Closure | As in Compendium, reviewed annually | Permanent restriction | Unrestricted access | Same as B and restrict patio to one river trip at a time |
| Hance Creek/Cottonwood Creek/Cremation (Groups/Night) | | | | |
| Hance Creek BE9/Primitive | 2 small/1 large | 3 small | Same as A | Same as B |
| Cottonwood Creek BG9/Primitive | 2 small/1 large | 3 small | Same as A | |
| Cremation BJ9/Primitive | 2 small/1 large | 3 small | 1 small/1 large plus 1 small or large group at new designated site | |
| Hance Creek/Cottonwood Creek/Cremation Use Area Changes | | | | |
| Hance Creek BE9/Primitive | None | None | Convert Primitive to Threshold Zone; as Threshold, consider adding toilets, change at-large to designated camping | None |
| Cottonwood Creek BG9/Primitive | | | Portion to designated campsite | |
| Cremation BJ9/Primitive | | | | |

Notes:

- Projected user nights were calculated using specific Use Area changes proposed in alternatives (i.e., Granite, Deer Creek Complex, Hance, Cottonwood, additional Corridor Zone campsites, etc.) and with the assumption that if group sizes are reduced from 11 maximum to 6 maximum (as in Alternatives B and D for some zones), groups formerly 7-11 people would become 6. Projections are based on calendar year 2012 data for each night in each Use Area.
- User night: one hiker in the backcountry for one night.
- Projected user nights assumes maximum booking in prime season and same booking as 2012 off-season.