



## What is the purpose of this plan?

The purpose of this plan/DEIS is to analyze and determine the type, extent, and location of backcountry use in Grand Canyon National Park. The plan/DEIS will establish an up-to-date adaptive management framework that allows the public to experience the park's unique backcountry and Wilderness resources and values while preserving them for the enjoyment of future generations.

## Why is a new plan needed?

The primary need for a revised BCMP is to address issues concerning visitor experience and resource protection in the park's backcountry including

- Current 1988 Backcountry Management Plan is not consistent with the park's 1995 General Management Plan (GMP) or NPS Wilderness Policy
- Commercial backcountry services have not been analyzed to determine if they are necessary and appropriate
- Some Use Areas in Wilderness have degraded resources and wilderness character which need to be addressed
- Cottonwood Campground capacity limits cross-canyon overnight opportunities
- Emerging recreational uses put demands on park resources un-envisioned in the 1988 Plan
  - Rim-to-rim and rim-to-river day use (hiking and running) has become popular and resulted in issues which need to be addressed including human waste and trash along trails, overused toilets, complaints from other Corridor users, trail etiquette problems, declining opportunities for solitude, and crowding at trailheads and Phantom Ranch
  - Impacts to resources from river-assisted backcountry travel, canyoneering, and climbing are not well understood and need to be addressed
- An adaptive management process has not been developed to guide decision-making for ongoing and emerging issues and concerns
- Increased visitation to the Tuweep area has exceeded the capacity established in the 1995 GMP and needs to be addressed
- Tribes have expressed concerns related to culturally significant places and access across tribal lands

## What do we want to accomplish?

- Protect and preserve the park's natural and cultural resources and values and integrity of wilderness character
- Provide a framework and programmatic guidance for consistent decision making in managing backcountry, including Wilderness
- Provide a variety of visitor opportunities and experiences for public enjoyment in a manner consistent with park purposes and preservation of park resources and values
- Provide for public understanding and support of preserving fundamental resources and values for which Grand Canyon National Park was established

## What is not covered in the plan?

### Items Outside the Scope of Analysis

- Colorado River Management
- Aircraft Overflights Management
- Wilderness Designation
- Wildlife Reintroductions, Removal, or Management
- Wild and Scenic River Designation
- Cave and Karst Management