



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK
P.O. Box 129
Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023-0129



D18 (GRCA 8217)

August 31, 2006

Dear Interested Party:

Reference: Bright Angel Creek Trout Reduction Project

Subject: Request For Comments On Environmental Assessment / Assessment of Effect
(EA/AEF)

Grand Canyon National Park is seeking comments on its combined Environmental Assessment/Assessment of Effect document for the Bright Angel Creek Trout Reduction Project. This project proposes to reduce the non-native trout population in Bright Angel Creek by using a weir and electrofishing. This combined EA/AEF has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as amended, and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) as amended. The National Park Service intends to follow 36 CFR 800.8(c), and use the process and documentation required for the preparation of all NEPA documents to comply with Section 106 of the NHPA in lieu of the procedures set forth in sections 800.3 through 800.6.

This EA/AEF evaluates a No Action Alternative (Alternative A), and an action alternative (Alternative B) that proposes mechanical removal of non-native fish species (primarily trout) from Bright Angel Creek in Grand Canyon National Park. The dual purposes of the project are to benefit endangered humpback chub (*Gila cypha*) and other native fish species in the mainstem Colorado River, and to restore and enhance, to the extent possible, the native fish community that once flourished in Bright Angel Creek. To meet these objectives, the preferred alternative proposes to reduce populations of non-native brown trout and rainbow trout in Bright Angel Creek by means of a weir (fish trap) installed near the mouth of the creek. Trout would also be removed incidental to fish population surveys using electrofishing. The proposed action would begin as early as November 2006 and continue for five years with annual monitoring and evaluation of the project.

This EA/AEF will be on public review for 30 days. If you wish to comment on the document, you may mail comments to the Superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park with the name and address below, or post comments online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/grca>.

Our practice is to make comments, including names, home addresses, home phone numbers, and email addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their names and/or home addresses, etc. but if you wish us to consider withholding this information you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. In addition, you must present a rationale for withholding this information. This rationale must demonstrate that disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. Unsupported assertions will not meet this burden. In the absence of exceptional, documentable circumstances, this information will be released.



We will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Comments must be postmarked or posted on line no later than October 2, 2006. Please address comments to:

Joseph F. Alston, Superintendent
Grand Canyon National Park
Attention: Office of Planning and Compliance
P.O. Box 129/ 1Village Loop
Grand Canyon, Arizona, 86023

Thank you for your interest in Grand Canyon National Park. If you have any questions, please call Rick Ernenwein, Project Planning Leader, at (928) 779-6279.

Sincerely,

/S/ B. Wellman for

Joseph F. Alston
Superintendent

