



United States Department of the Interior

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



D18 (GRCA 8219)

October 6, 2006

Dear Interested Party:

Subject: Review of Environmental Assessment– Hermit Road Rehabilitation

Enclosed is an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Rehabilitation of Hermit Road. Grand Canyon National Park proposes to rehabilitate the historic, approximately seven-mile long Hermit Road, located on the South Rim between Grand Canyon Village and Hermits Rest. Proposed actions include widening and resurfacing the road, improving existing trails, overlooks and parking areas, and constructing a multi-modal greenway trail. This EA evaluates three alternatives for addressing the purpose and need for action. The EA also evaluates taking only minimal action (Alternative A, No Action) to address critical safety concerns for comparison with the action alternatives. The EA further evaluates a management option (temporal road closure) to close Hermit Road periodically to all motor vehicles, an option that could be applied to any alternative. The preferred alternative includes 1) widening the road from its current width of 18-20 feet to a uniform width of 24 feet; 2) constructing an approximately three-mile long greenway trail from The Abyss to Hermits Rest on the road's north side; 3) minimal improvements to the unpaved rim trail between Powell Point and The Abyss; 4) rehabilitation of the historic paved West Rim Trail between Grand Canyon Village and Maricopa Point; 5) constructing a connecting trail around the Orphan Mine area between Maricopa Point and Powell Point; and 6) making improvements for safety and accessibility at ten of the overlooks and parking areas along Hermit Road.

The initiation of this planning effort was included in a June 2004 public scoping letter and again in June 2005, soliciting issues and concerns on preliminary project proposals. Responses to these scoping efforts were used during the preparation of the enclosed EA. The National Park Service encourages your review and comment on the EA. The document can be reviewed online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/grca>. Comments can be submitted online at the same web address (the preferred method) or mailed to Joseph F. Alston, Superintendent, Grand Canyon National Park, Attention: Office of Planning and Compliance, P.O. Box 129 (1 Village Loop for express mail), Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023. Comments will be accepted through November 6, 2006.

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.

If you have any questions regarding the project, please call Debbie Lutch, Project Planning Leader at (928) 774-0095.

Sincerely,

/S/ PHart for

Joseph F. Alston
Superintendent

Enclosure