



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park

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Grand Canyon News Release

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National Park Service Announces Availability of Environmental Assessment for Phase V of the Grand Canyon Greenway at Grand Canyon National Park

Grand Canyon, Ariz. – Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent, Steve Martin, today announced the availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction of phase V of the Grand Canyon Greenway (Greenway V trail). The EA is now available for public review and comment.

The National Park Service is proposing to construct a one-mile section of trail between Pipe Creek Vista and the South Kaibab Trailhead, located on the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. The purpose of the project is to continue implementation of a greenway trail system as envisioned in Grand Canyon National Park's 1995 General Management Plan (GMP). The GMP outlined a system of multi-use, accessible trails throughout the park that, once constructed, would encourage non-motorized modes of travel and would provide a greater opportunity for visitors to experience the resources of the park. The construction of the proposed Greenway V trail would allow for a continuous trail connection from other, already completed, phases of the Grand Canyon Greenway to the South Kaibab Trailhead.

The EA evaluates three alternatives, including a No Action alternative. The Preferred alternative (Alternative B) includes construction of a one-mile long accessible trail between Pipe Creek Vista and the South Kaibab Trailhead; redesign of Pipe Creek Vista overlook and parking area to provide for pedestrian and vehicular safety; improvements to the South Kaibab Trailhead area; and designation of a one-mile long connector trail, south of Desert View Drive, for multi-modal

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use that would be designated as part of the Arizona Trail. The primary difference between the two action alternatives, Alternative B and Alternative C, is the parking configuration at Pipe Creek Vista.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, calls on federal agencies to consider environmental issues as part of their decision-making process and to involve interested parties in the process. The NEPA process was initiated in June 2006 with a public scoping letter soliciting issues and concerns on a preliminary project proposal. Responses to this scoping effort were used during preparation of the EA.

The EA will be on public review for 30 days. The document can be reviewed online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/grca> by clicking on the project name, and then scrolling to “Open for Public Comments.” Comments can also be submitted online at the same web address (the preferred method) or mailed to Steve Martin, Superintendent, Grand Canyon National Park, Attention: Greenway V, P.O. Box 129 (1 Village Loop for express mail), Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023. **Comments will be accepted through February 9, 2008.**

The NPS encourages public participation through the NEPA process. After the public comment period, comments received will be carefully considered before a decision is made regarding implementation of the Greenway V trail project.

For additional information or for copies of the EA, please contact Rachel Stanton, Project Planning Leader at (928) 774-9612.

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