



Public Scoping for the Glen Canyon Rim Trail Environmental Assessment

March 2008

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area is considering a proposal to construct a recreational trail along the southeast rim of Glen Canyon, a spectacular 1,200-foot deep canyon of the Colorado River, just below the Glen Canyon Dam. The proposed trail would be approximately 7.5 miles in length and would link the Horseshoe Bend trail with the city of Page's existing Rim Trail. We are seeking the benefit of your comments to help identify issues and alternatives for consideration in an environmental assessment for the trail.

The Rim Trail Proposal

The initial proposal for the Glen Canyon Rim Trail is to construct a trail connecting the Horseshoe Bend area with the city of Page's Rim Trail. The proposed trail would be located on both National Park Service lands and city of Page lands. Approximately 2.5 miles would be on city of Page lands, while the remaining sections would be on National Park Service lands. The city of Page is participating as a cooperating agency in the development of this environmental assessment.

Staff from the National Park Service, city of Page, and the International Mountain Bicycling Association began identifying a trail corridor in January 2008. A general map of the proposed trail corridor is on the back of this flyer. The trail would start on Manson Mesa near an area locally known as Potato Hill or Indigo Ridge. From there, the trail would descend from the mesa and cross Highway 89 just south of the Chains area. The trail would generally follow the rim of Glen Canyon south to the Horseshoe Bend overlook, where it would join in with the existing Horseshoe Bend trail. Along its course, the trail would pass through

unique Navajo sandstone, slickrock, and geologic formations, providing outstanding vistas of the Colorado River and the Vermillion Cliffs.

The proposed trail would be open to non-motorized uses. The environmental assessment will examine opening the trail to hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders.

The existing Horseshoe Bend overlook trail is a popular hiking destination for visitors. This ½-mile trail (one-way) leads to a spectacular overlook of the Colorado River. This EA will examine making the existing Horseshoe Bend trail handicapped accessible.

Currently, there is a very small amount of visitor activity along the proposed trail route. Although no trail currently exists, some individuals hike in this area as a convenient recreational opportunity near Page.

An environmental assessment was prepared in 1995 for this and other projects in the area, and a finding of no significant impact was recommended in 1996. However, the trail was never constructed, partly because funding was not obtained.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of this planning effort is to evaluate alternatives for a proposed non-motorized trail along the rim of Glen Canyon. The trail is needed to help provide additional land-based recreational opportunities for visitors in this area. Currently, there are very few designated trails in this part of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

The Planning Process

Scoping is the initial step in an environmental assessment, when the public has the opportunity to provide comments about the issues and alternatives that should be considered. Once public scoping is completed, the National Park Service will prepare the environmental assessment, which will identify a preferred alternative. This document will then be made available for public review and comment. The National Park Service will consider any comments and make a decision about whether or not to move forward with the project. Because this trail project involves lands that are owned by the city of Page, the city is participating as a cooperating agency in the development of this environmental assessment.

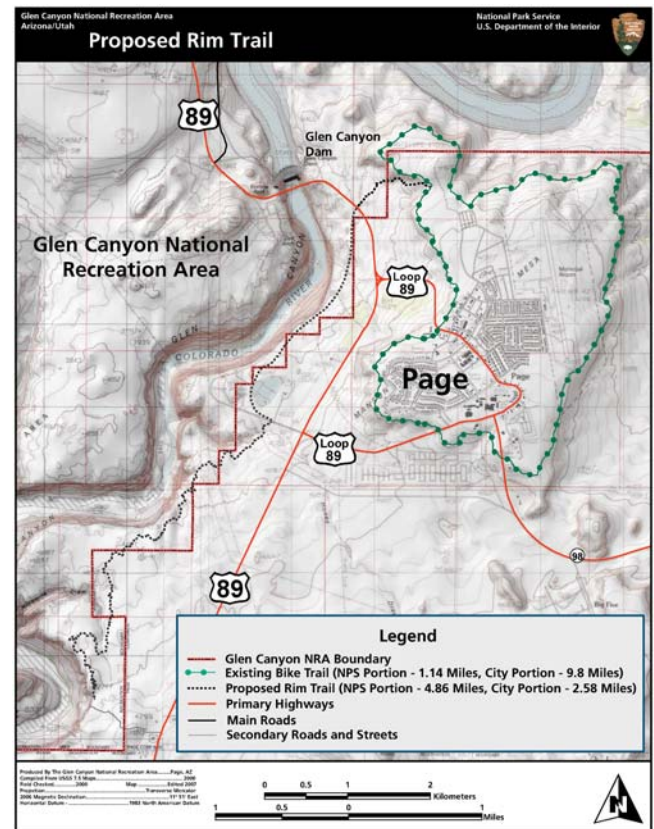
Commenting on the Plan

We are looking for your vision for this trail. What do you want the trail to be like? How much interpretative and educational materials are appropriate along the trail? Are there alternative routes you would like to see us consider? Are there particular impacts from this proposed trail that you would like us to analyze? Do you have any specific concerns about the project? These types of comments will help us prepare a better, more relevant environmental assessment.

Public comments may be submitted through any one of several methods. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Comments may be submitted online at:
parkplanning.nps.gov/glca

Comments may be mailed to:
Glen Canyon Rim Trail
P.O. Box 1507
Page, AZ 86040



Map of the Proposed Glen Canyon Rim Trail.

Comments may be hand delivered to:
Glen Canyon Headquarters
691 Scenic View Dr.
Page, AZ

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area will hold an open house about the project at park headquarters in Page (at the address above) on April 23, 2008. Staff will be available to answer questions about the project and gather input. The open house will occur from 4 to 6 pm. Interested individuals are encouraged to stop by anytime during these hours.

All public comments must be received by April 30, 2008.