# Chapter 5 Consultation and Coordination

## 5.1 Introduction

This chapter describes consultation and coordination during FMP DEIS/AEF preparation. Consultation, coordination, and public involvement are integral to identifying relevant issues and concerns and to ensure issues are addressed. Issue development was accomplished through public meetings and workshops, agency meetings, individual contacts, news releases, and Federal Register notices.

## 5.2 Public Scoping

Public scoping is part of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1501.7) for preparing an environmental impact statement. Scoping helps determine the range of issues and opportunities used in developing alternatives and assessing environmental effects. The process used during public scoping, and consultation and coordination for the Draft Grand Canyon Fire Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, is described below.

In January 2001, new Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy was released. The new policy was a revision and update of the December 1995 Final Report of the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Program Review. This document was accepted by the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture. A National Fire Plan was also introduced and approved. This National Plan directed the NPS to expedite removal of hazardous fuels from Wildland-Urban Interface areas to provide immediate protection of natural and cultural resources, physical property, and facilities, both Federal and private.

In May 2001, the NPS sent a general scoping letter (Appendix B, Attachment A) to interested public, affected agencies, and known groups about the fire management program and projects to be undertaken at GRCA for the purpose of preparing a NEPA document. The letter informed recipients about the proposed updated Fire Management Plan and projects including prescribed and wildland fire-use fires, and manual/mechanical fuel reduction. The letter also described several existing park conditions that have led to increased fire potential such as overcrowded forests and activities undertaken before Grand Canyon became a national park. Eleven written responses to this letter were received by GRCA through email, U.S. mail, and hand delivery. Based on comments and issues raised during internal scoping, the NPS elevated the level of environmental analysis from an Environmental Assessment to an Environmental Impact Statement.

A Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS was published in the Federal Register on September 16, 2003. Written responses from the scoping letter and comments from public meetings helped identify fire management issues and concerns, a suitable range of alternatives, and environmental impacts to address in this DEIS/AEF.

### 5.2.1 Public Input to the Planning Process

A total of 96 comments were identified in 31 submissions received in response to the 2001 and 2003 scopings. Primary issues identified through public comment evaluation were concerns related to GRCA ecological restoration through natural fire, local impacts related to air and visual resource quality, cultural resource protection, Wildland-Urban Interface/community protection, appropriate conditions for prescribed fire use, and overall management and coordination procedures. These issues are similar to those brought forward by the NPS internal scoping process.

Many topics were directly related to management plan goals and objectives and have been incorporated, including reducing risk of wildland fire in the WUI; using natural fire as a natural process to maintain park ecosystems; coordination with other Federal, state, county, local and American Indian tribal governments

through fire management collaboration; and maintaining wilderness areas as wilderness during fire management. Comments are detailed in Appendix B.

The NPS sought public input to reaffirm previously identified agency and public issues and to identify any new public issues and concerns. Scoping is required for documents prepared in compliance with NEPA, including environmental impact statements, to determine the document's scope—what will be covered and in what detail. The scoping process must be open to the public; state, local, and tribal governments; and affected Federal agencies. The objectives of scoping are to

- Involve as many interested parties as possible in the environmental review process
- Provide clear, easily understood, factual information to potentially affected parties
- Provide meaningful and timely opportunities for public input
- Identify, consider, and evaluate issues raised by interested parties to prepare the plan and EIS
- Identify and eliminate from detailed study insignificant issues
- Consider public comments throughout the decision-making and review process

### 5.2.2 Public Scoping Meetings

Wildland Fire Associates and SWCA Environmental Consultants were retained by GRCA to help develop the EIS and organize and manage a second round of public scoping which included a scoping letter and comment form sent to interested public and affected agencies, press releases, and a series of open house meetings (Appendix B, Attachment C).

The 2003 scoping letter informed the public that the NPS intended to prepare an EIS to analyze proposed GRCA fire management activities. The more in-depth 2003 scoping letter informed recipients of the purpose and need for intended actions, intent of the management plan to be used for long- and short-term planning, and the proposed plan's goals and objectives. The 2003 letter also explained how to be involved in scoping and stay involved through the planning process.

WFA and SWCA organized and managed a series of five scheduled public meetings, which were held on these dates in the communities listed

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| October 15, 2003 | Kanab, Utah | October 22, 2003 | Phoenix, Arizona |
| October 20, 2003 | Page, Arizona | October 23, 2003 | Flagstaff, Arizona |
| October 21, 2003 | Grand Canyon, Arizona | | |

Meetings were structured as open houses. Information about the FMP/EIS process was presented through posters and handouts (Appendix B, Attachment D). NPS personnel were present to answer questions. Attendees were invited to submit written comments on a comment form provided (Appendix B, Attachment C), and an audio recorder was available to collect verbal comments. GRCA received a total of 20 written responses in 2003 via email, U.S. mail, and hand delivery, including those collected during open house meetings.

### 5.2.3 Review and Evaluation of Public Scoping Comments

Members of the planning team read every submission, identified specific comments in each submission, and coded them according to developed criteria.

Major issues raised in the 2003 scoping comments are

- GRCA ecological restoration through natural fire
- Local impacts related to air and visual resource quality
- Cultural resource protection
- Wildland-Urban Interface/community protection
- Appropriate conditions for prescribed fire use

### 5.2.4 Organizations and Agencies Consulted

During the NEPA decision-making processes, the NPS is required to consult with certain American Indian tribes, as well as Federal and state agencies and entities due to jurisdictional responsibilities (40 CFR 1502.25). This section documents these consultation and coordination efforts. Consultation will be an ongoing effort through completion of a final document and agency decision.

#### 5.2.4.1 Tribal Consultations

In keeping with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, NPS Management Policies (NPS 2006), Executive Memorandum on Government- to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments; Executive Orders 13007 and 13175; 512 Department of the Interior Manual 2; and Director‘s Order 71, Relationships with Indian Tribes, the following American Indian Tribes were consulted regarding the FMP DEIS/AEF

- Havasupai Tribe
- Hopi Tribe
- Hualapai Tribe
- Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians
- Navajo Nation
- Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
- White Mountain Apache Tribe
- Yavapai-Apache Nation
- San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe
- Pueblo of Zuni
- Moapa Band of Paiute Indians
- Las Vegas Paiute Tribe

Issues identified during tribal consultation included

- Smoke impacts to neighboring Navajo Nation chapters
- Concern about impacts to fire-sensitive (combustible) traditional structures such as wickiups and sweatlodges
- Concern about vandalism to archeological sites from government and contract crews
- Opportunities to engage tribal youth in pre- and post-fire assessments and resources monitoring
- Interest in having tribal representatives monitor fire management activities
- Concern about access and impacts to traditional plant resources
- Concern about ecosystem vulnerability to invasive plants and bug kills, pre- and post-treatment
- Concern that prescribed fires are conducted within the natural range of variability, not operating outside natural ecosystem processes
- Support of prescribed fires to reduce threat of unwanted, high-severity fire and stimulate growth of certain ethnographically important plants
- Interest in contracts with tribal entities and tribal fire crews for hazard fuel removal and other fire management activities
- Interest in transfer of wood cut during hazard fuel removal to BIA for use as fuel

#### 5.2.4.2 Arizona State Historic Preservation Office

NHPA requires agencies to consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regarding undertakings that may affect historic properties. Formal consultation regarding this plan was initiated on September 30, 2003. Consultations are ongoing.

#### 5.2.4.3 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Informal consultations will be initiated on August 1, 2008 with the USFWS regarding species of concern.

- Special status species: bald eagle, California condor, Mexican spotted owl, southwestern willow flycatcher
- Candidates for listing as threatened or endangered species: yellow-billed cuckoo and relict leopard frog
- State-listed special status species: northern goshawk

## 5.3 Recipient List

There are approximately 400 entries with physical addresses on the mailing list for this DEIS/AEF. Compacts discs (CDs) are being sent to all persons on the list with a physical mailing address. Some DEIS/AEF hard copies will be sent to agencies and those individuals who requested hard copies during previous public scoping. In addition, the document is being posted on the Internet where it can be downloaded from the National Park Service Planning Environments and Public Comment website (PEPC) at: http://park planning.nps.gov/grca. Copies are also being made available in main libraries of cities listed below. A complete list of individuals receiving copies of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is on file a Grand Canyon National Park, Park Headquarters, Office of Planning and Compliance.

The following lists agencies, offices, and organizations to which this document is being sent. As requests for copies are received during public review of this document, the list will be updated.

Federal Agencies
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Department of Agriculture
- Coconino National Forest
- Kaibab National Forest

Department of the Interior
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
  - Arizona State
  - Arizona Strip (Utah)
- Bureau of Reclamation
- National Park Service
  - Bryce Canyon National Park
  - Canyonlands National Park
  - Flagstaff Area Parks
  - Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument
  - Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
  - Intermountain Regional Office
  - Lake Mead National Recreation Area
  - Pipe Springs National Monument
  - Zion National Park
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Arizona Congressional Delegation
Office of Senator John McCain
Office of Senator John Kyl
Office of Congressman Trent Franks
Office of Congressman Jeff Flake
Office of Congressman Raul Grijalia
Office of Congressman Gabrielle Giffords
Office of Congressman Harry Mitchell
Office of Congressman Ed Pastor
Office of Congressman Rick Renzi
Office of Congressman John Shadegg

Local Libraries
Flagstaff, Arizona
Phoenix, Arizona

Arizona State Agencies
Office of the Governor
State Historic Preservation Office
Department of Environmental Quality
Department of Transportation and Planning
Game and Fish Department

Indian Tribal Governments
Havasupai Tribe
Hopi Tribe
Hualapai Tribe
Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians
Navajo Nation
Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
White Mountain Apache Tribe
Yavapai-Apache Nation
San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe
The Pueblo of Zuni
Moapa Band of Paiute Indians
Las Vegas Paiute Tribe

Regional, County, Local and City Governments
City of Flagstaff
City of Fredonia
City of Kanab
City of Page
City of Williams
Coconino County Board of Supervisors

Organizations and Businesses
Arizona Wilderness Coalition
Grand Canyon Association
Grand Canyon Field Institute
Grand Canyon National Park Foundation

Grand Canyon Trust
Grand Canyon Wildlands Council
Sierra Club
The Nature Conservancy
The Wilderness Society

## 5.4 NPS Interdisciplinary Team and Preparers

The NPS Interdisciplinary Team (Table 5-1) met frequently throughout FMP DEIS/AEF development. Adaptive Management Services Enterprise Team (AMSET) listed below (Table 5-2) were preparers during early stages of the planning process from September 2005 through December 2007, including preparation of early drafts of this DEIS/AEF. However, AMSET has not been involved with document changes since that time.

**Table 5-1 NPS GRCA FMP DEIS/AEF Interdisciplinary Team Members and Preparers**

| Name | Title | GRCA Unit |
|---|---|---|
| Jill Beshears | Environmental Compliance | Office of Planning and Compliance |
| Carl Bowman | Natural Resources/Air Quality | Division of Science and Resource Management |
| Greer Chesher | Writer/Editor | Office of Planning and Compliance |
| J. Grace Ellis | Cultural Resource Specialist (Former) | Office of Planning and Compliance |
| Rick Ernenwein | Outdoor Recreation Planner | Office of Planning and Compliance |
| Eric Gdula | Fire GIS Specialist | Division of Visitor and Resource Protection<br>Fire and Aviation Management Branch |
| Amy Horn | Park Archeologist | Division of Science and Resource Management |
| Craig Letz | Deputy Fire Management Officer (Former) | Division of Visitor and Resource Protection<br>Fire and Aviation Management Branch |
| Chris Marks | Deputy Fire Management Officer | Division of Visitor and Resource Protection<br>Fire and Aviation Management Branch |
| Carmen Sipe | Fire Wildlife Biologist | Division of Visitor and Resource Protection<br>Fire and Aviation Management Branch |
| Mary Rassmussen | Fire Ecologist (Former) | Division of Visitor and Resource Protection<br>Fire and Aviation Management Branch |
| RV Ward | Wildlife Biologist | Division of Science and Resource Management |
| | | Intermountain Regional Office |
| Linda Kerr | Fire Ecologist | Division of Visitor and Resource Protection<br>Fire and Aviation Management Branch |
| Lisa Hanson | NEPA Specialist | Division of Visitor and Resource Protection<br>Fire and Aviation Management Branch |

**Table 5- 2 Adaptive Management Services Enterprise Team Members and Preparers**

| Name | Job Position |
|---|---|
| Gail Bakker | Hydrologist |
| JoAnn Fites, Ph.D | Fire Ecologist/Fire Scientist |
| Ronald W. Hodgson, Ph.D | Fire Social Scientist |
| Marian Kadota | Planning Forester |
| Maeton Freel | Wildlife Biologist |
| Carol Ewell | Ecologist |
| Wendy Boes | Botanist |
| Marty Dodds | Director Landscape Architect Services, Recreation Solutions |