

Appendix B Public Scoping Issue Analysis GRCA FMP/EIS

Prepared for Grand Canyon National Park By Wildland Fire Associates and SWCA Environmental Consultants, March 2004

B.1 Introduction

In May 2001, the NPS sent a general scoping letter (Attachment A) to interested public, affected agencies, and known groups on Fire Management Programs to be undertaken at GRCA for the purpose of preparing an Environmental Assessment. Based on public comments received and issues raised during internal scoping, the NPS elevated the level of environmental analysis to an Environmental Impact Statement. On September 16, 2003, the NPS issued a Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* for preparation of an EIS for the GRCA Fire Management Plan (Attachment B). The NOI stated, "This effort will result in a new wildland fire management plan that meets current policies, provides a framework for making fire-related decisions, and serves as an operational manual." Wildland Fire Associates (WFA) and SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) 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, affected agencies and known groups; press releases; and a series of open house meetings (Attachment C).

The 2001 scoping letter was sent to interested public, affected agencies, and known groups notifying them of the NPS intent to prepare an EA to analyze fire management activities. The letter informed recipients of the project's intended actions including prescribed and wildland fire-use fires and mechanical fuel reduction. The letter also described several existing park conditions that led to increased fire potential such as overcrowded forests and pre-park activities.

The 2003 scoping letter was sent to inform the public that the NPS intended to prepare an EIS to analyze GRCA fire management activities. The more in-depth, 2003 scoping letter informed recipients of the purpose and need for intended actions, intent of management plan to be used for long- and short-term planning, and the proposed plan's goals and objectives. Specific goals and objectives to be achieved included ensuring human life, health, and safety and reducing risk of wildland fire near communities and developed areas. The 2003 letter also explained how to be involved in scoping and stay involved throughout the planning process.

B.2 Public Scoping

Scoping is required for NEPA compliance documents, including an EIS, to determine the scope of the document; that is, 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. Scoping objectives are

- 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 significant issues raised by interested parties to assist in Grand Canyon FMP/EIS preparation
- Identify and eliminate from detailed study issues that are not significant
- Consider public comments throughout the decision-making and review process

B.2.1 2001 Public Scoping

In May 2001, a scoping letter was sent to interested public, affected agencies, and known groups soliciting public input on Fire Management Programs to be undertaken at GRCA (Attachment A). Eleven written responses to this letter were received by GRCA through email, U.S. mail, and hand delivery.

B.2.2 2003 Public Scoping

The NPS sent out press releases and a second scoping letter to interested public, affected agencies, and know groups to initiate the 2003 scoping process (Attachment C); six were returned undeliverable. WFA and SWCA organized and managed a series of five public meetings held on the following dates in the communities.

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		

The meetings were structured as open houses. Information about the FMP/EIS process was presented through posters and handouts (Attachment D). NPS personnel were present to answer questions. Attendees were invited to submit written comments on a comment form provided (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.

B.3 Review And Evaluation Of Scoping Comments

The NPS read and responded to the 31 submissions received during the 2001 and 2003 public scoping periods. SWCA reviewed and organized all submissions into four categories to facilitate handling, analysis, and archival storage (Table B-1).

Table B-1 Submissions Received In Response to FMP Scoping Efforts, By Category and Period

Document Category	Code	Comments Received During Scoping	
		2001	2003
Email	E	8	11
Comment Form	F	n/a	7
Letter	L	3	2
Recorded Transcript	R	n/a	0

Specific comments in each submission received in 2001 and 2003 were identified and coded by document category (Table B-3). A total of 96 comments were identified in 31 submissions (Table B-3); two separate pairs of submissions were counted as one submission each, as those responses were submitted jointly. Five submissions in response to the 2001 scoping letter and four responses received in 2003 did not provide comments relevant to the proposed action (Table B-3).

When the initial review process was completed, the comments made by the public during scoping were summarized as concern statements, which are listed in Table B-2.

Table B-2 Summary Of Concerns Raised During 2001 And 2003 Public Scoping Periods

Concerns / Comments	Year	
	2001	2003
Planning Process and Direction		
The desired future condition for GRCA forests should be perpetuation of park ecosystems and restoration of natural fire regimes		√
The FMP should focus on the minimum intervention necessary to achieve natural fire regime reintroduction		√
FMP goals should be to restore natural fire regimes, reduce wildlife risks to communities and developed areas, and promote human health and safety		√
The FMP should explicitly describe how it will incorporate the “non-degradation” concept in park management		√
Only actions necessary to achieve objectives in the park’s GMP and FMP are justified, and they must employ the minimum methods and techniques required		√
The NPS should develop decision trees or algorithms within a GIS to determine the type, location, timing, intensity, and relative priority of active management needed to accommodate natural variability of fires across large contiguous tracts of forests		√
FMP/EIS analysis should contain maps of “identified, undeveloped management areas” and should describe what qualifies these areas for wildland fire use or how areas not currently slated for wildland fire use may eventually qualify	√	
The FMP/EIS should include maps of vegetation types, historical and current fire condition classes, burn units, roads, trails, and areas requiring special fire management consideration		√
The FMP/EIS should include a structural ignitability assessment and mitigation plan for buildings located in park developed areas		√
The FMP should specify the range of conditions under which naturally ignited fires are allowed to burn, how this range relates to specific management objectives, and whether this range differs across forest types	√	
The FMP should include monitoring and evaluation protocols for Wildland Fire Use, including suppression triggers	√	
The FMP should include specific standards for mechanical treatments and estimated acreage for each treatment type	√	
The FMP/EIS should reference the Smoke Management Plan for Grand Canyon Village and Tusayan		√
The FMP/EIS should clearly state the relationship of the upcoming Vegetation Management EIS to the FMP/EIS		√
The FMP should include the practice of adaptive management		√
The FMP/EIS should be data rich, include transparent analyses, and explain how these data and analyses relate to goals and objectives of each alternative as well as of existing and related planning documents	√	
The FMP planning process should specify a NEPA process for site-specific actions		√
The FMP should address how noxious/invasive plants have altered fire regimes		√
Fire Management Activities		
Given similar effectiveness at achieving an objective, wildland fire use should be favored over prescribed fire, and prescribed fire favored over mechanical treatment		√
Naturally ignited fires should be allowed to burn where safe to do so	√	
All human-caused fires should be suppressed	√	
Naturally ignited fires should be permitted to burn where suppression effects have been minimal		√
Naturally ignited fires should be allowed to burn in identified, undeveloped management areas according to pre-established protocols, burn schedules, and monitoring plans	√	
Prescribed fire should be used, when absolutely necessary, to reverse suppression effects		√

Concerns / Comments	Year	
	2001	2003
Fire Management Activities		
Prescribed fire should be used to the minimum extent required to prevent a landscape scale fire that would permanently destroy the natural vegetative regime		√
Prescribed fire should be used in areas where natural fire is unsafe		√
Prescribed burns should not be conducted during summer, especially when any kind of wind is present	√	
Mechanical fuel reduction should be used to modify vegetation structure to accommodate natural fire		√
Mechanical fuel reduction should be used in areas susceptible to unnaturally large crown fires		√
Thinning should be completed in fall and winter	√	
A drought index should be developed that overrides short-term fuel moisture values in burn decisions		√
Wildland Urban Interface/Community Protection		
Mechanical fuel reduction should be implemented to mitigate the threat of wildland fires to structures	√	
NPS should evaluate need for and potential effectiveness of fuels treatments that may reduce risk of high-intensity wildfire to communities or high-use developed areas		√
Some large trees in high-use areas should be removed and the wood sold		√
Mechanical treatments and fire suppression may be needed around developed areas and along the border between the national park and private lands		√
Burns should be controlled to protect facilities, visitors, and residents	√	
Cultural and Natural Resource Protection		
Naturally ignited fires should be allowed to burn unless historic structures are threatened	√	
The goal of fire management activities should be to preserve natural resources and wildlife habitat		√
The FMP/EIS should identify all natural and cultural resources requiring special consideration and outline mitigation measures for each resource		√
Fuels treatments should be focused on the Wildland-Urban Interface to avoid damaging adjacent forests through ineffective thinning projects		√
Air Quality/Visual Resources		
Mechanical fuel reduction should be used in preference to fire because it does not affect air quality and visibility	√	
Prescribed fires and wildland fires may create further problems regarding GRCA air quality and visual acuity; daily weather conditions and air quality should be considered.	√	
The FMP/EIS should analyze 1) FMP effects on air quality in terms of visibility, public closures, and health impacts and 2) the ability of the NPS to implement a fire plan within current air quality standards		√
Implementing prescribed fires whenever conditions are right alienates the public by reducing visibility in Grand Canyon	√	
To limit the number of days smoke is in the air, fires should be suppressed after a pre-defined number of fire days are reached		√
Burns should not be permitted along main entryways to avoid an ugly park introduction		√
Wilderness		
GRCA Fire suppression should not be based on fire suppression needs of adjacent Federal lands managed for purposes other than wilderness		√
Fire suppression should be limited to GRCA developed non-wilderness areas		√
The FMP should follow the minimum requirement concept and should describe in a formal minimum requirement analysis how it will implement this concept in proposed wilderness areas		√

Concerns / Comments	Year	
	2001	2003
Wilderness, continued		
A programmatic minimum requirement analysis is unsuitable for determining where and when exceptions to the Wilderness Act should be allowed, and all minimum requirement analyses for prescribed fire and/or fire recovery should be on a case-by-case basis		√
FMP/EIS analysis should assess the impacts, including access needs, of fighting wildland fire in potential wilderness and identify locations where such a response is likely		√
The FMP should include prescriptions and procedures, including access needs, for implementing prescribed burns in potential wilderness		√
Ecological restoration in proposed wilderness should be conducted only if it leads to the eventual release of the land to function on its own under more natural conditions		√
The use of fuel reduction to “restore” boreal forests is problematic and should be thoroughly analyzed and justified before implementing in the FMP		√
Ecological Restoration		
Naturally ignited fires are the most cost effective and ecologically appropriate way to restore and maintain natural fire regimes	√	
Prescribed fire should be used in addition to natural fire to maintain and improve ecological health of forests when and where resource professionals determine such an approach is appropriate	√	
The FMP should seek to restore natural processes rather than specific forest structures		√
The FMP should seek to restore presettlement conditions of the GRCA forest	√	
The FMP/EIS should articulate a conceptual approach to ecological restoration		√
The FMP and EIS should articulate the range of structural objectives that may be considered in fire planning and how these relate to GRCA’s concept of ecological restoration		√
Ecological restoration should be considered in proposed wilderness only if 1) the wilderness is a large landscape ecosystem on a clear degradation trajectory that will continue without human intervention, 2) the wilderness is critical to the function of the larger ecosystem and the unnatural condition of the wilderness is a threat to the integrity of the larger landscape, or 3) there are rare or valued elements within the wilderness that are at risk without intervention		√
In developing a fire plan for ecological restoration, the NPS should consider the high level of natural heterogeneity in ponderosa pine forests, the dynamic nature of ecosystems, biodiversity, scientific uncertainty, and the challenges of on-the-ground practices		√
Social and Economic Conditions		
Rather than burning the resource, timber should be available for economically beneficial uses, such as providing small-diameter timber for hogan construction and providing firewood for Native American use on reservations.	√	
Agency Coordination		
The NPS should develop a coordinated plan with the Kaibab National Forest that allows fire movement across jurisdictional boundaries		√
The NPS should coordinate with the Forest Service to burn on the same days to reduce the number of days with smoke in the air		√
The Fire Point road could be accepted as the primary firebreak between GRCA and adjacent national forest		√
Publication of the draft FMP/EIS should be widely advertised		√

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 are similar issues and impact topics to those brought forward by the NPS internal scoping process.

Many topics were directly related to FMP goals and objectives and were 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 Native American governments by collaborating in fire management, and maintaining wilderness areas as wilderness during fire management.

An extensive scoping effort was conducted for this project that included four public meetings in 2003 as well as the 2001 scoping effort. The 2003 scoping meetings were advertised through a GRCA press release and announcements on local radio stations in each meeting location.

This scoping effort was successful and accomplishing all NPS stated requirements of public scoping (outlined in the NPS Director's Order 12 Handbook) including

(a) Determine Important Issues

Through public scoping and IDT issue identification, important issues were identified related to the fire management planning process, proposed activities, Wildland-Urban Interface/community protection, cultural and natural resource protection, air and visual resource quality, wilderness ecological restoration, agency coordination.

(b) Eliminate Non-relevant Issues

As shown in Table B-3, all submissions were categorized by respondent, comment date, and individual comment identification numbers. Letters with more than one comment were split and given individual comment identification numbers. If the comment was not relevant to the project's purpose and need, goals and objectives, or fire management, the comment was recorded as "n/a" and not given a comment number.

(c) Divide Assignments

Once comments were categorized, they were distributed among specialists for further evaluation and issue identification.

(d) Identify Relationships to Other Planning Efforts

Through scoping, the public raised concern about this planning effort's coordination with other GRCA management documents such as the General Management Plan as well as the Forest Service's fire management planning.

(e) Define a Time Schedule of Document Preparation and Decision-making

After submissions were received, comments categorized, and issues identified, the time schedule of draft and final FMP/EIS document preparation was revised.

(f) Size the Analysis Box

Scoping usually helps redefine or further identify a project's purpose and need, goals and objectives, or proposed activities. This scoping effort helped further refine management plan goals and objectives, especially with respect to cooperator collaboration, specifically with other Federal, state, county, local and Native American tribal governments.

Table B-3 Individuals Who Responded During the 2001 and 2003 Scoping Periods

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	Document Date	Code	Comment Number(s)
2001					
Gregory E.	Eckert, Ph.D.	NPS, Fort Collins, CO	06/07/01	E14	n/a
Keith B.	Green	-	07/01/01	L3	14-18
Kelly	Janecek	Grand Canyon Trust	06/07/01	E17	n/a
David	King	-	06/07/01	L4	19
Dana	McGuinness	AAA Arizona	06/12/01	E15	n/a
Taylor	McKinnon	Grand Canyon Trust	07/02/01	L2	2-13
Richard D	Quartaroli	Cline Library, Special Collections	06/08/01	E16	n/a
Kenneth L	Sizemore	Five County Association of Governments	06/11/01	E5	26-28
Joy	Staveley	Canyoneers, Inc.	06/02/01	E4	24-25
Nat	White	-	06/04/01	E3	23
Jason	Williams	-	06/06/01	E13	n/a
2003					
Wade	Albrecht	Arizona Cooperative Extension USDA	10/14/03	F2	40
Sandy	Bahr ¹	Grand Canyon Chapter Sierra Club	11/17/03	E8	52-60
Mark	Belles	-	09/22/03	L1	1
Liz	Boussard	-	11/16/03	E10	78-83
Kim	Crumbo ²	Arizona Wilderness Coalition	11/16/03	E12	87-96
Kim	Crumbo	Arizona Wilderness Coalition	2003	F4	42
McKinnon	Taylor ³	Grand Canyon Trust	11/17/03	E9	61-77
Fry	Tom	The Wilderness Society	11/17/03	E9	61-77
Sharon	Galbreath	Southwest Forest Alliance	11/17/03	E8	52-60
Ann V.	Howard	AZ SHPO	10/30/03	L5	n/a
Kelly	Huckins	Arizona Game and Fish Dept.	11/17/03	E18	n/a
Brynn	Johns	-	2003	F5	43-46
David	King	-	10/15/03	F3	41
Mike	Lanning	-	10/24/03	E6	29
Ferne	Lovelace	GRCA	10/21/03	E2	22
Larry	Lucas	-	10/09/03	E19	n/a
Tom	Martin	River Runners for Wilderness	11/17/03	E11	84-86
Taylor	McKinnon	Grand Canyon Trust	11/17/03	E9	61-77
David P.	Mills	Tusayan RD, Fire Mgt., Kaibab NF	10/02/03	E1	20-21
Paul	Ostapuk	-	2003	F6	47-51
Confidentiality Requested		-	2003	F1	35-39
Peter	Szerlag	-	10/06/03	E7	30-34
Anonymous		-	2003	F7	n/a

n/a=Did not provide comment relevant to Purpose and Need

¹ Submitted jointly with Sharon Galbreath, Southwest Forest Alliance

² Mr. Crumbo responded on behalf of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition by email and comment form

³ Submitted jointly with Tom Fry, The Wilderness Society

Table B-4 Comments Identified in Responses to the 2001 and 2003 Public Scoping Period

Document Code	Comment Number	Comment
01		
E3	23	I fully support fire management that seeks to restore as best we can the pre-settlement balance of the forest at the GC. I am particularly aware of the overcrowded forest conditions near the Grandview area. This has worsened significantly during the last 30 years that I have enjoyed the canyon.
E4	24	My only comment would be that the Park Service and Forest Service not do prescribed burns during the summer, and especially not when any kind of wind is present. The time to do the thinning is the fall and winter. I believe that carrying and hauling should be done near dwellings or popular visitor attractions.
	25	Cutting and hauling is my preference all the time because it is much better for air quality and visibility.
E5	26	The Fire Management EA should include an evaluation of how smoke management can be integrated with visibility management.
	27	Putting timber resources to an economically beneficial use is also an important issue which should be discussed. Rather than burning the resource, and creating a smoke impact, why can't the timber be utilized for beneficial uses such as small diameter timber for hogan construction?
	28	Effective control of burns is vital. How [will] the Park Service adequately control burns to protect facilities, visitors, and residents? This issue should be addressed at a future Arizona Strip Regional Planning Task Force meeting.
L2	2	The Trust is encouraged both by the overall success of the GRCA fire management programs to date and the renewed emphasis placed on fire as a natural ecosystem process in conjunction with the need for increased public safety under the National Fire Plan. These appear to be important and appropriate steps towards safely restoring fire to the GRCA fire-dependent ecosystems.
	3	We encourage the GCNP to conduct an environmental analysis that is data rich, includes transparent analyses, and clearly explains how these data and analyses relate to both the specific goals and objectives of the various alternatives, and the goals and objectives of existing and related planning documents.
	4	The Grand Canyon Trust is strongly supportive of the National Park Service allowing naturally caused lightning fires to burn within identified, undeveloped management areas according to pre-established protocols, burn schedules, and monitoring plans.
	5	To the extent that they can be used sagely and effectively, naturally ignited fires are the most cost effective and ecologically appropriate way to restore and maintain more natural fire regimes in wildland forest ecosystems within the Park.
	6	Analysis should contain specific information describing a) the location (maps) of "identified, undeveloped management areas", what qualifies them for Wildland Fire Use, and how "identified, undeveloped management areas" not currently slated for Wildland Fire Use may eventually qualify for Wildland Fire Use following fuels reduction treatments, wildfires, or other events that result in decreased overall fire risk.
	7	b) the range of conditions or "predetermined schedule" under which naturally ignited fires are allowed to burn, how this range relates to specific management objectives, and if/how this range of conditions differs across different forest types according to their different natural fire regimes and intensities.
	8	c) monitoring and evaluation protocols for Wildland Fire Use including suppression triggers
	9	A century of fire suppression combined with pre-park timber harvest and livestock grazing have resulted in dangerously heavy fuel loads throughout many forests within the GCNP. The Grand Canyon Trust supports the use of pre-planned, prescribed fires to reduce fuel loads and restore ecological health to degraded forests.
L2	10	[Grand Canyon Trust is] also supportive of the GCNP using prescribed fire in addition to natural fire in order to maintain and improve the ecological health of forests when and where resource professionals determine such an approach is appropriate.

Document Code	Comment Number	Comment
2001, continued		
	11	The Grand Canyon Trust is supportive of mechanical fuel reduction projects in communities that have been pre-identified as threatened by fire. Mechanical treatments can be a useful tool in mitigating the threat of wildland fires to structures directly adjacent to forests.
	12	It may be useful for the NPS to develop a standardized, transferable analysis that determines standards and therefore also mechanical treatment intensity and extent on a case by case basis.
	13	[Grand Canyon Trust] urge[s] the NPS to include more specific information describing the standards for mechanical treatments and the estimated acreage for each treatment type: the intensity and extent of mechanical treatments proposed within the National Park may meet significance criteria under the National Environmental Protection Act, thus warranting an Environmental Impact Statement.
L3	14	My request is that the Park Service let the process be as natural as possible. Whenever a fire is started by lightning, NPS should let it burn until it goes out on its own. This means let it burn as it naturally would until it goes out.
	15	Man made fires should be put out and historic structures should be protected, but other than these cases, natural fires should be left to burn.
	16	A continual policy of having controlled burns whenever conditions are right will continue to alienate the public.
	17	Controlled burns inevitably cause air pollution in the canyon
	18	This experiment of trying to burn forests when conditions are favorable just isn't working.
L4	19	Although necessary and perhaps local to use fire as a toll to promote ecosystem health, I am concerned that Prescribed Fires and Wildland Fires allowed to burn within an identified, undeveloped management area may create further problems with regard to air quality and visual acuity in Grand Canyon National Park. What precautions will be taken in this regard? Will consideration be given to daily weather conditions and air quality?
2003		
E1	20	I would encourage the Park Fire Mgt organization to continue to strengthen the cooperative relationship with the Kaibab NF knowing that such collaboration is a benefit to both agencies and the ecosystems that we care for. This is particularly important in light of the growing use of wildland fire for resource benefit by both agencies, costs and resource limitations, and the nature of fire movement across jurisdictional boundaries.
	21	Having played a role in the development of the Smoke Management Plan for Grand Canyon Village and Tusayan, I have a personal interest in seeing this document referenced and used as a guide in our fire activities. Since Park employees also put a lot of time and energy into the smoke plan, I would expect reference to it in the larger FMP to be automatic.
E2	22	The BIA works closely with Gordon Plaisted on getting firewood for native Americans to use on reservations. I hope that will be considered as the new fire management plan is addressed.
E6	29	I have heard that you are possibly going to be building a large fire station at the NO Rim is this Fred Harvey or Tusayan FD? Also do you have any ambulances at the North Rim or does Guardian have to come from Tusayan?
E7	30	Can you send me a list of fire trucks at the Grand Canyon (structural, wildland, rescue, concession)?
	31	What is the status of the new South Rim Emergency Services Building?
	32	What is the status of the new North Rim Emergency Services Building?
	33	Do the structural firefighters at GRCA have radio pagers?
	34	How is structural fire protection provided at the North Rim and South Rim presently? Someone told me that all structural fire protection at the South Rim is now provided by the Tusayan FD.

Document Code	Comment Number	Comment
2003, continued		
E8	52	[Southwest Forest Alliance] urge[s] the Park Service to focus on discovering the absolute minimum intervention necessary to achieve reintroduction of natural processes such as fire. This would mean the development of a fire policy that has a basis in ecosystem processes, and sets appropriate goals and methodologies for a National Park. The fire plan should also recognize that ecosystem structures and processes have been altered to the point where fire might have to be used repeatedly in the same location before any historic fire behavior could be replicated.
		[Southwest Forest Alliance] favor[s] an approach with the goal of restoring natural processes, over a restoration approach that seeks to replicate specific forest structures. Focusing on restoration of natural processes would allow the Park Service to use a range of historic conditions for reference without the burden of attempting to inappropriately replicate a specific forest structure, at a specific point in time.
	54	In developing a fire plan, we request that the Park Service take particular note of issues raised in a new paper by C. Allen, D. Falk, M. Hoffman, J. Klingel, P. Morgan, M. Savage, T. Schulte, P. Stacey, K. Suckling, and T. Swetnam called, Ecological Restoration of Southwestern Ponderosa Pine Ecosystems: A Broad Framework, which has been accepted for publication in "Restoration Ecology". The purpose of the paper is to provide a broad and flexible framework for ecological restoration of Southwestern ponderosa pine forests that recognizes: high levels of natural heterogeneity; the dynamic nature of ecosystems; wildlife and other biodiversity considerations; scientific uncertainty; and the challenges of on-the-ground practices.
	55	The fire plan should propose realistic alternatives that would conduct activities on a scale compatible with the protection of wilderness and other natural resource values. The goal of management activities should be to preserve natural resources and wildlife habitat.
	56	Fire management in potential wilderness areas should include an assessment of access needs for both a proposed prescribed fire program and response to wildland fires. The Park Service should clearly identify any proposed vegetative manipulation that would be associated with either process. The plan should assess the impacts of fighting wildland fire in potential wilderness and identify locations where such a response is likely.
	57	Focused treatments of the wildland urban interface (WUI) are necessary to avoid damaging adjacent forest ecosystems and wildlife habitats with ineffective thinning projects. According to researchers specializing in fire behavior, protection of structures depends entirely on the treatment of an area within 60 meters (200 feet) of the structure. This is necessary to protect structures from the various forms of ignition present during forest fires, regardless of what treatments are implemented in the adjacent forest. The largest community protection zone required under maximal conditions is less than 500 meters (1640 feet) wide.
E8	58	We hope that this planning process and resulting document will specify a NEPA process for site specific actions. Annual burn plans, maps, etc. can all be posted to a website so that the agency only has to send a brief mailing or email message to alert the public to available documents for comment.
	59	If adaptive management is going to be used to address a substantive issue by deferring analysis or to conduct analysis on a piecemeal basis then the agency must have a plan to revise documents and undergo additional public comment.
	60	The EIS will need to address air quality in terms of visibility, public closures and health impacts. The timing of prescribed fires could significantly reduce the impacts of smoke on park visitors. It will be important to analyze the ability of the Park Service to implement a fire plan within current air quality standards. An assessment of other pollution impacts and their effects on implementing the desired fire plan should be included.
E9	61	We encourage the NPS to frame its development of alternatives according to the ultimate goals of fire management: restore natural fire regimes, reduce wildfire risks to communities and developed areas, promote human health and safety, etc.

Document Code	Comment Number	Comment
2003, continued		
	62	Where it is safe, fire should play its natural role, free of human control. Where natural fire is not safe, its beneficial role can be sustained through active management--either through prescribed burning or by managing the ecosystem to be resilient to uncontrolled wildfire. Each of the alternatives developed should be framed to address the steps necessary to achieve these goals. Short-term goals must serve as mileposts in achieving the larger aim. Short-term outcomes may include: 1. rigorous promotion of National Fire Plan fuel reduction efforts focused on areas where property and structures are most at risk. 2) Wildland Fire Use is applied in an increasing range of geographic and weather conditions. 3) Managers are maximizing use of prescribed fire in places where Wildland Fire Use is not safe. 4) Thinning and other mechanical fuel reduction treatments are implemented where vegetation structure must be modified to accommodate natural fire.
	63	The fire management plan DEIS should include maps accurately representing vegetation types and the frequency, distribution, and historical and current fire condition class for Grand Canyon National Park. Maps should also be provided delineating burn units, administrative and public roads, trails, communities and developed areas requiring fire protection activities, and special elements and cultural resource protection areas (when mapping of such values does not violate applicable law) requiring special fire management consideration.
	64	It's important that the Park Service articulate a conceptual approach (or multiple possible approaches) to ecological restoration as part of the DEIS. The DEIS should also articulate how each of these approaches translates into restoration (or management) goals and objectives for each forest ecosystem type.
	65	We suggest the best way to maintain long-term resilience of forest ecosystems at Grand Canyon is to allow forest conditions to track ongoing climate change by restoring natural fire regimes, which naturally correlate with climate (Allen and others, 2002, Fulé and others, 2003; Grissino-Mayer and Swetnam, 2000; Swetnam and Betancourt, 1998). We are please to see that the scoping letter identifies "restoring and maintaining fire's natural role in the ecosystem" as a "preliminary" goal; in fact, we think this should be a <i>primary</i> goal.
	66	We recommend the NPS explore developing a criteria-based decision system (decision trees or algorithms) within a GIS to determine the type, location, timing, intensity, and relative priority of active management needed to natural variability of fires across large contiguous tracts (and gradients) of forests. This assessment can form the basis of the EIS from which subsequent project-level actions can tier, and can serve as an umbrella data context for tiered project-level effects analyses, monitoring, and adaptive management.
E9	67	When considering appropriate methods for active management in this assessment or otherwise in the FMP analysis, less intrusive methods should be favored over more intrusive methods as a general rule. Given similar effectiveness at achieving an objective, wildland fire use should be favored over prescribed fire, and prescribed fire over thinning. Mechanical or hand thinning should be relegated to those areas and forest types in which structural modifications are necessary to accommodate natural fires, and/or areas where potential for unnaturally large crown fire fires (and catastrophic ecological shifts) exists (Schaffer and others, 01).
	68	The DEIS and FMP should clearly articulate the range of structural objectives that may be considered in subsequent fire project planning and how these relate to the GRCA conceptualization of ecological restoration. For example, should small tree thinning in ponderosa pine forests seek to emulate "pre-settlement" forest structure, should it seek to emulate forest structure that would exist today had fire suppression not occurred, or should it seek the minimum amount of structural modification necessary to accommodate natural fires? Which approach is most aligned with GRCA conceptualization of ecological restoration? Which is least so? What are the relative costs, benefits, and impacts of these different strategies? In what circumstances are some more desirable than others? Why?

Document Code	Comment Number	Comment
2003, continued		
	69	Franklin and Aplet (2002) suggest that ecological restoration consists of bringing land under greater control for the purpose of increasing its naturalness, and that restoration, therefore, does not, by itself, increase the wildness of wilderness. Wilderness management should only be conducted if leads to the eventual release of the land to function on its own under more natural conditions. As you develop plans for ecological restoration in proposed wilderness in Grand Canyon National Park, we ask that you consider the discussion of this issue in Franklin and Aplet (2002), which we will send under separate cover.
	70	Address certain threshold questions before considering ecological restoration in wilderness. To determine if restoration is appropriate, we believe that one of the following questions must be answered in the affirmative: 1) Is the wilderness itself a large landscape ecosystem that is on a clear trajectory of degradation that will continue without human intervention? 2) Is the wilderness critical to the function of the larger ecosystem outside the wilderness, and is its unnatural condition a threat to the integrity of the larger landscape? 3) Are there especially rare or valued elements in the wilderness that are a risk without intervention?
	71	The fire management plan DEIS should identify all special elements (TES plant and animal habitats, for example) and cultural resources requiring special fire management consideration. Mitigation measures specific to each should be clearly outlined and justified in the DEIS, and incorporated into the fire management plan.
	72	Because it's virtually impossible to ensure against wildland fires from entering communities and developed areas, we believe a coordinated effort to reduce structural ignitability is critical to the laudable goal of "reducing the risk of wildland fire to communities and developed areas". NPS should include in its Fire Management EIS a structural ignitability assessment and mitigation plan for buildings located in Grand Canyon National Park communities and developed areas. This should specify 1) criteria for eligibility and priority criteria for treating structures; 2) a list of qualifying structures, communities, or developed areas ranked by priority; and, 3) treatment zones around structures.
	73	The NPS should also evaluate the need for and potential effectiveness of Wildland Urban Interface fuels treatments that may reduce the risk of a high intensity wildfire entering the communities or high-use developed areas.
E9	74	An integrated and cross boundary approach to fire management is essential in realizing the stated goals of this planning initiative. Of particular interest is the collaboration that should occur between Grand Canyon National Park and Kaibab National Forest. In as many instances as possible, management prescriptions of adjacent and cross boundary fire management zones should complement each other to facilitate both management and ecological consistency.
	75	Eight tenets should be considered in developing a successful adaptive management program: 1) the program must be founded on a collaboratively developed vision and goals statement for the ecosystem under consideration. 2) Available relevant information is compiled, analyzed, quality controlled, interpreted, and made universally available. 3) Inventory and monitoring is conducted to establish baseline conditions, trends, and the range of natural variability of resources (i.e., populations, species, ecological processes), and research is conducted to clarify specific questions about the ecosystem. 4) Monitoring and adaptive management results are reported promptly, discussed by stakeholders, and used for outreach where appropriate. 5) Synthetic analyses and development of an ecosystem model are key elements to expose gaps in data and understanding, and to evaluate policy options that are either trivial or risky given uncertainty about response directions. 6) Sound and continuing external scientific peer-review of data, projects, proposals, and management actions helps guarantee scientific credibility of the adaptive management process. 7) A rigorous information management program is required to archive and interpret long-term changes. 8) Monitoring and research results are fed back into the Adaptive management process to improve program integrity. Adaptive management is particularly appropriate for large ecosystems in a degraded condition, managed for multiple stakeholders with diverse social goals, and in which large-scale management and restoration activities may be recommended.

Document Code	Comment Number	Comment
2003, continued		
	76	Incorporating monitoring criteria, protocol, and implementation strategies that examine whether the fire management plan will accomplish the stated purpose, need, and objectives of the overall planning amendment should be a prime consideration in developing alternatives. Will monitoring occur at the project-level alone or also as an aggregate of the fire management plan? What monitoring criteria will be incorporated to address how effectively the fire management plan addresses the state goals and objectives? How will monitoring be funded? What specific outcomes, beyond simply project implementation, does the NPS intend to monitor?
	77	The DEIS should clearly spell out the relationship between the upcoming Vegetation Management EIS process and this planning process.
E10	78	I hope the Park will advertise more broadly the release of the draft plan.
	79	I strongly support a natural fire regime in Grand Canyon, particularly since most of the park is de facto wilderness where natural processes should be allowed to operate freely.
	80	Allowing naturally ignited fires to burn in an ecosystem context requires a landscape scale. Unfortunately the boundaries created by the delineation between the park and adjacent national forests create significant hurdles for addressing natural fire regimes within the ponderosa pine and spruce fir forests, particularly on the North Rim. A primary goal of the Fire Management Plan should be the development of a coordinated plan with the Kaibab National Forest that allows such fires to burn across boundary lines.
	81	Fire has been suppressed less [in GCNP than other region's forests managed by the U.S. Forest Service], and prescribed fire in the Park's wilderness should be wholly based on the minimum required to prevent a landscape scale fire that would forever destroy the ponderosa pine forest of the North Rim. Recent fires on the North Rim have demonstrated that a let-it burn strategy has not threatened the forest in the Park overall.
E10	82	Wilderness purposes should provide THE framework for the FMP. Fire suppression should be limited to the developed non-wilderness areas of the Park and prescribed fire should be used only when a minimum requirement analysis (MRA) proves that without it, the natural vegetative regime would be permanently destroyed...Moreover, any minimum requirement analysis for prescribed fire and/or fire recovery should be on a case-by-case basis. Due to the complexity of vegetative types in the park and terrain variability, as well as location relative to exiting roads, a programmatic MRA is unsuitable for determining where and when exceptions to the Wilderness Act (i.e., the prohibition of temporary roads, use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, landing of aircraft, mechanical transport and structures or installations), should be allowed.
	83	Although the park did not provide information on this issue at the open house it is over serious concern to me. The Park's Draft Wilderness Plan and the 1980 Wilderness Recommendation directed that several fire roads with the proposed wilderness of Grand Canyon Nation Park (Tiyo Point, Komo Point, Walhalla Glades, Fancois Matthes Point, Widforss and the Basin) were to be closed to public and administrative mechanized transport and be available for emergency use only. Are these routes now used only for emergency purposes? I was appalled when I observed the degree of erosion through the meadow on the Basin road. It is my understanding that it was to be moved so that it would circumvent the meadow.
E11	84	We would like to be assured that the parks FMP will follow the minimum requirement concept as set forth in park policy and the Wilderness Act. This must include a robust Minimum Requirement Analysis (MRA) for all aspects of fire management with the preservation of wilderness values and character foremost in the MRA for the FMP.
	85	We very much support the move toward a "natural fire: desired future condition in the park as defined in the 1983 Wilderness Fire Symposium. Fire suppression in Grand Canyon should not be based on fire suppression needs of adjacent federal lands managed for other purposes beside wilderness.
	86	We note that some roads in the park are open for fire use, but closed for public use. These roads should be closed and re-vegetated, as the wrong signal is being sent to the park visitor about why roads are "closed" but remain open. The public expects the park to play by the rules too.

Document Code	Comment Number	Comment
2003, continued		
E12	87	The explicit "desired future condition: for the wilderness forest in GRCA should be the perpetuation of park ecosystems and the restoration of natural fire regimes. If a prescribed fire program is implemented, these plans will also include the prescriptions and procedures under which the program will be conducted within wilderness. Only actions necessary to achieve objectives set forth in the Park's GMP and FMP are justified, and they must employ the minimum methods and techniques required.
	88	The primary goal of the NPS fire management program is to integrate fire into sustainable naturally functioning ecosystems (Botti, et al. 1994:4). This interpretation is supported by the 1992 GRCA <i>Fire Management Plan</i> goals of ensuring the perpetuation of park ecosystems and the restoration of natural fire regimes. These goals should remain the desired future condition for the Park's forests.
	89	Ensuring the perpetuation of park ecosystems and the restoration of natural fire regimes can be accomplished by permitting natural fires to burn where the effects of suppression have been minimal or mitigated and by, when absolutely necessary, using prescribed fire where the effects of suppression must be reversed (Parsons and van Wagtendock 1996:41). Only actions necessary to achieve objectives set forth in the Park's GMP and FMP are justified, and they must employ the minimum methods and techniques required.
E12	90	Restoring natural fire is ultimately possible only within a natural landscape-scale context, such as the entire Kaibab Plateau (Grand Canyon Game Preserve and Grand Canyon National Park), and the Park fire/restoration program must be coordinated with the Forest Service adjacent to the north and south rims. One interagency agreement possible immediately is to accept the Fire Point road as the primary fire break between the Park and National Forest.
	91	The management practice of fuel reduction to "restore" boreal forests is problematic and should be thoroughly analyzed and justified before implementing in the FMP.
	92	The FMP should explicitly describe how it intends to incorporate the "non-degradation" concept in Park management. Under the non-degradation principle, the conditions prevailing in each area when it is classified should establish relevant benchmarks of naturalness unless those conditions are deemed below standard and the objective is to restore naturalness. This is not to suggest an arbitrary return to some static "vignette," but rather a return to the full complement of natural biotic and abiotic processes that shaped the natural landscape. In summary, the nondegradation principle recognizes that naturalness and solitude vary between individual wildernesses. Management's objective should be to prevent degradation of current naturalness and solitude and restore substandard settings to minimum levels, rather than letting wilderness deteriorate to a minimum standard (Hendee, et al. 1990:183).
	93	The FMP should explicitly describe in a formal MRS's how it will implement the minimum requirement concept in all aspects of management actions in the proposed wilderness. Specifically, law and policy (USDI 01) obligates the NPS to apply the "minimum requirement concept" of the Wilderness Act to all management actions including administrative, scientific and commercial uses within the Park's proposed wilderness (USDI 01, §6.3.5).
	94	Any minimum requirement analysis for prescribed fire and/or fire recovery should be on a case-by-case basis. Due to the complexity of vegetative types in the park and terrain variability, as well as location relative to existing roads, use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, landing of aircraft, mechanical transport and structures or installations.
	95	Development of Standard Operating Projectures (SOPs) MRA regarding emergency use of mechanized transport or equipment should be done in advance in the context of the minimum requirement concept. This process should be opened to public scrutiny and should not result in <i>carte blanche</i> use of mechanized travel and tools in non-emergency situations.

Document Code	Comment Number	Comment
2003, continued		
	96	The Park's "fire road" closures need to be effectively enforced. The GRCA Draft Wilderness Plan (USDI 1998: 76-77), reiterating provisions of the 1980 Wilderness Recommendation, points out that the six so-called "fire roads" within the proposed wilderness of Grand Canyon National Park (Tiyo Point, Komo Point, Walhalla Glades, Francois Matthes Point, Widforss and w-1 from the landfill to its junction with the Point Sublime Road) are (or should be) closed to public and administrative mechanized transport. EXPAND These routes constitute nonconforming intrusions within the proposed wilderness and administrative use of mechanized transport or tools, if any, should be evaluated in the context of the minimum requirement concept. I have received information from reliable sources that routine, non-emergency administrative use occurs on these routes. In addition, the promised closure to mechanized transport and restoration of the Basin road has yet to occur.
F1	35	controlled burns are appropriate in many areas
	36	logging out congested areas is ok
	37	fight urban interface areas aggressively
	38	prepare urban interface to minimize fire danger
F1	39	some of the large trees should be removed in congested areas--sell that wood!
F2	40	Will there be language addressing the impacts of noxious/invasive on the altering of fire regimes? Specifically, the impact of roadside (pathside) populations of Bromus tectorum and other species with similar ecological side effects.
F3	41	In Bryce, along the main entryway, ground brush burning has created an ugly introduction to the Park. Entire trees have burned. I hope plans are made in Grand Canyon to ensure this does not happen.
F4	42	The Arizona Wilderness Coalition will submit written comments. The principal themes will be desired future conditions--"natural fire" on a landscape scale including north Kaibab; and rigorous application of minimum requirement on all aspects of mgt. decisions.
F5	43	When we can smell smoke in Page, we assume that things are out of control.
	44	Fire can cause visibility problems that get blamed on others, which can cause bad decisions to be made.
	45	Perhaps it would be possible to get the media to report not only acreage data, but severity data as well.
	46	The time span for ecosystems is longer than for people. I.e., fire provides a long-term benefit, but I don't want to buy a cabin in ????? Time the forest recovers, I may be dead.
F6	47	Concerned about the total overall number days with smoke in the air (20 plus and increasing) especially when more aggressive fire management activities begin in concert with the Forest Service management areas.
	48	Two suggestions for No Burn: 1) when you hit pre-defined # of fire days (I.e., 30 days/per year) you hit your limit and then you go fire suppression
	49	Establish better drought index that can override fuel moisture values. It still seems we are too optimistic about short-term moisture levels. I would establish a drought parameter where if you are too dry statistically you don't burn--period. . .Short term fuel moistures can mislead fire managers and you need a level where you just don't burn when in a drought cycle.
	50	Conduct burns in concert with the Forest Service to have bigger burns or joint days where we have a few days with a lot of smoke vs. 40-50 days with moderate smoke. I'd rather have bigger fires for a few days than smoke in the air every day for 3-4 months.
	51	Update the website every day.
L1	1	I support a Fire Management Plan that seeks to move the fire condition towards a natural fire regime. I understand that a border zone around developed areas and along the border between the park and private lands may require more mechanical treatments and fire suppression than would be called for under natural circumstances.

Appendix B, Attachment A 2001 Scoping Letter



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK
P.O. BOX 129
GRAND CANYON, ARIZONA 86023-0129

L7617 (GRCA-8213)

MAY 31 2001

Dear Interested Party:

The National Park Service is seeking public input on Fire Management programs to be undertaken at Grand Canyon National Park. Prescribed Fires, Wildland Fires for Resource Benefit, and Mechanical Fuel Reduction Projects have been undertaken in the past. However, with implementation of the National Fire Plan, the National Park Service intends to enhance these programs to more effectively manage park resources. The following actions are intended:

Prescribed Fires - this pre-planned management action is designed to use fire as a tool to promote ecosystem health and to reduce excessive forest fuels. Burn Plans are written and executed with specific objectives in mind, such as fuel reduction or wildlife habitat improvement. If a prescribed fire demonstrates behavior that contradicts resource management objectives, suppression actions are taken.

Wildland Fires Managed for Resource Benefit - these lightning-caused fires are allowed to burn within an identified, undeveloped management area. They are monitored and evaluated according to a predetermined schedule that is revalidated on a daily basis. Suppression actions are taken if these fires demonstrate behavior that contradicts resource management objectives or if the fire approaches its predetermined boundary.

Mechanical Fuel Reduction - Federal agencies have been given clear direction by the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to mitigate the threat of wildland fires in the wildland-urban interface, where homes and other structures are directly adjacent to forests. **Mechanical fuel reduction projects will occur only in communities that have been specifically identified as threatened by fire.** Vegetation will be reduced in these areas according to specified standards, to be determined by an interdisciplinary team of subject matter experts. Combustible materials will be disposed of by burning when snow or rain is present, by chipping, or by property transfer.

Appendix B, Attachment A 2001 Scoping Letter

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These actions are in accordance with the park's General Management Plan, Resource Management Plan, and Fire Management Plan, which call for fire to be restored to the park's ecosystems to reduce excess fuels and to promote forest health. They are also consistent with the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy, which guides fire management activity on all Federal Lands. Planning for these actions will provide for firefighter and public safety, address important values to be protected, be consistent with resource management objectives, and comply with environmental laws and regulations.

Pre-park grazing and selective harvest of timber, combined with a century of fire suppression, have led to unhealthy and overcrowded forest conditions at Grand Canyon National Park. These conditions increase the potential for unwanted and out-of-control wildland fires that place communities, resources and the public at risk. While the destructive potential of fire is evident, it is likewise recognized as an essential part of healthy ecosystems. Fire managers seek to strike a balance between suppressing fires that threaten lives or property, and allowing fire to be used as a tool to promote forest health.

To evaluate alternatives and determine environmental consequences, the National Park Service will be preparing an Environmental Assessment for these projects and would like to hear your comments and concerns related to the proposed actions. The park welcomes your participation in understanding these management actions and developing alternative actions. Issues identified to date include effects upon air quality, soil, vegetation, wildlife - including threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, and visitor experiences.

Please send your comments to:

Superintendent
Grand Canyon National Park
c/o Sara White
PO Box 129
Grand Canyon, AZ, 86023

Or send an e-mail reply to: Sara_White@nps.gov.

Please be aware that names and addresses of respondents may be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the

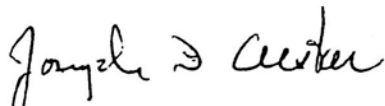
Appendix B, Attachment A 2001 Scoping Letter

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beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety. We would appreciate receiving your comments no later than July 1, 2001.

If you have any questions regarding the projects, please call Kim Van Hemelryck at 520-638-7821.

Sincerely,


Joseph F. Alston
Superintendent

Appendix B, Attachment B Notice of Intent

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Gaming

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs.
Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Tribal-State Gaming Compact Amendments taking effect between the State of Wisconsin and the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin and the Red Cliff Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 11 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 (IGRA), Public Law 100-497, 25 U.S.C. 2710, the Secretary of the Interior shall publish, in the **Federal Register**, notice of approved Tribal-State Compacts for the purpose of engaging in Class III gaming activities on Indian lands. The Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, through her delegated authority, is publishing notice that the Amendment to the Tribal-State Compacts for Class III gaming between the State of Wisconsin and the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin and the Red Cliff Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin is deemed approved. By the terms of IGRA, the Amendments to the Compacts are considered approved, but only to the extent that the Amendments are consistent with the provisions of IGRA.

The Amendments expand the scope of gaming activities authorized under the Compact, remove limitations on wager limits, remove limitations on the number of permitted gaming devices, extend the term of the compact to an indefinite term, subject to re-opener clauses, institute an entirely new dispute resolution provision, replace the sovereign immunity provision, and modify the revenue-sharing provision of the Compact.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 16, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George T. Skibine, Director, Office of Indian Gaming Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC 20240. (202) 219-4066.

Dated: September 9, 2003.

Woodrow W. Hopper, Jr.,

Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 03-23578 Filed 9-15-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-4N-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Fire Management Plan, Environmental Impact Statement, Grand Canyon National Park, AZ

AGENCY: National Park Service.
Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for a Fire Management Plan for Grand Canyon National Park.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4332 (C), the National Park Service is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Fire Management Plan (FMP) for Grand Canyon National Park. This effort will result in a new wildland fire management plan that meets current policies, provides a framework for making fire-related decisions, and serves as an operational manual. Development of a new fire plan is compatible with the broader goals and objectives presented in Grand Canyon National Park's 1995 General Management Plan (GMP).

The Environmental Impact Statement process will identify and evaluate the environmental impacts of several alternatives for fire management in the park. Alternatives will address resource protection, potential resource impacts, and various mitigation practices necessary or desirable to minimize adverse impacts to resource conditions. Alternatives to be considered will include no-action, and a reasonable range of alternatives that meet the project objectives, including various combinations of fire suppression, wildland fire use, prescribed fire, and mechanical treatments. The Environmental Impact Statement process will be conducted in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office, natural resource management agencies, affiliated American Indian tribes, and other interested Federal, state, and local agencies. Attention will also be given to resources outside the boundaries that affect the integrity of Grand Canyon.

Issues are expected to include protection of cultural resources, protection of plant and wildlife habitats, effects on native and non-native species, protection of threatened and endangered species and their habitats, protection of other natural resources, wildland urban interface, fire in proposed wilderness, protection of park neighbors' property, reducing impacts to park visitors,

protection of life and property, protection of air quality, effects on tourism, and changes in landscape-scale vegetation patterns.

The public involvement process will include distribution of a scoping document requesting public input and comment. Several public meetings will be held in locations surrounding the park. The scoping document will describe the project in general, identify preliminary issues, and include specific meeting dates and locations. Information can be obtained from Dan Oltrogge, FMP Project Leader, Grand Canyon National Park, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023, 928-638-7822.

DATES: The Park Service will accept comments from the public through November 17, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Information will be available for public review and comment in the office of the FMO, Dan Oltrogge, Grand Canyon National Park, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023; 928-638-7822.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Oltrogge, FMP Project Leader, Grand Canyon National Park (928) 638-7822 or go to the Grand Canyon Compliance Web site at <http://www.nps.gov/grca/compliance>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: If you wish to comment on the scoping document, you may submit your comments by any one of several methods. You may mail comments to FMP Project, Grand Canyon National Park, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023. You may also comment via electronic mail (e-mail) to GRCA_FMP@nps.gov. Please submit e-mail comments as a text file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include your name, e-mail address, and return mailing address in your e-mail message. Finally, you may hand-deliver comments to Grand Canyon National Park at the Headquarters building between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions

54244

Federal Register / Vol. 68, No. 179 / Tuesday, September 16, 2003 / Notices

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

Dated: July 14, 2003.

Michael D. Snyder,

Deputy Director, Intermountain Region,
National Park Service.

[FR Doc. 03-23350 Filed 9-15-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312-ED-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Klamath Project Operation, Oregon and California

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation,
Interior.

ACTION: Notice of extension of formal
scoping period for the draft
environmental impact statement on the
Klamath Project operation.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is extending the formal scoping period on an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Klamath Project (Project) operation, a Federal reclamation project, located in southern Oregon and northern California. A formal scoping period of 120 days, through September 2, 2003, was previously announced in the *Federal Register* (68 FR 23761, May 5, 2003).

DATES: Reclamation is extending the formal scoping period an additional 90 days following publication of this notice. Written comments should be sent to the Reclamation Project Manager (see **ADDRESSES** below) December 15, 2003. Reclamation invites all interested parties to submit written comments or suggestions during the scoping period. Comments postmarked after that date will be considered to the extent practical. Dates and locations of public scoping meetings will be published in the *Federal Register*.

ADDRESSES: Please send written comments to the Mr. Daniel S. Fritz, Project Manager, Klamath Basin Area Office, Mid-Pacific Region, Bureau of Reclamation, Attention: KO-150, 6600 Washburn Way, Klamath Falls, OR 97603.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Daniel S. Fritz at (541) 880-2556.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Reclamation is extending the formal scoping period to allow additional time to receive public comments and to conduct scoping meetings. Continued developments related to the Klamath

Project have occurred since the formal scoping was initiated in early May 2003. Additional information may become available, such as the final report of the National Academy of Science's Committee on Endangered and Threatened Fishes in the Klamath River Basin, that could result in new information relevant to the proposed action and prompt additional scoping comments from the public useful for the environmental impact statement.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from public disclosure, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold a respondent's identity from public disclosure, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment letter. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Dated: September 3, 2003.

Frank Michny,

Regional Environmental Officer, Mid-Pacific
Region.

[FR Doc. 03-23542 Filed 9-15-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MN-P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigations Nos. 731-TA-1054 and 1055
(Preliminary)]

Light-Walled Rectangular Pipe and Tube From Mexico and Turkey

AGENCY: United States International
Trade Commission.

ACTION: Institution of antidumping
investigations and scheduling of a
preliminary phase investigations.

SUMMARY: The Commission hereby gives notice of the institution of investigations and commencement of preliminary phase antidumping investigations Nos. 731-TA-1054 and 1055 (Preliminary) under section 733(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1673b(a)) (the Act) to determine whether there is a reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is materially injured or threatened with material injury, or the establishment of an industry in the United States is materially retarded, by

reason of imports from Mexico and Turkey of light-walled rectangular pipe and tube,¹ provided for in subheading 7306.60.50 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, that are alleged to be sold in the United States at less than fair value. Unless the Department of Commerce extends the time for initiation pursuant to section 732(c)(1)(B) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1673a(c)(1)(B)), the Commission must reach a preliminary determination in antidumping investigations in 45 days, or in this case by October 24, 2003. The Commission's views are due at Commerce within five business days thereafter, or by October 31, 2003.

For further information concerning the conduct of these investigations and rules of general application, consult the Commission's rules of practice and procedure, part 201, subparts A through E (19 CFR part 201), and part 207, subparts A and B (19 CFR part 207).

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 9, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Olympia Hand (202-205-3182), Office of Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20436. Hearing-impaired persons can obtain information on this matter by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal on 202-205-1810. Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the Commission should contact the Office of the Secretary at 202-205-2000. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its Internet server (<http://www.usitc.gov>). The public record for these investigations may be viewed on the Commission's electronic docket (EDIS) at <http://edis.usitc.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background.—These investigations are being instituted in response to a petition filed on September 9, 2003, on behalf of the following firms: California Steel and Tube, City of Industry, CA; Hannibal Industries, Los Angeles, CA; Leavitt Tube Co., Chicago, IL; Maruchi American Corp., Santa Fe Springs, CA; Northwest Pipe, Portland, OR; Searing Industries, Rancho Cucamonga, CA; Vest, Inc., Los Angeles, CA; and, Western Tube and Conduit, Long Beach, CA.

Participation in the investigations and public service list.—Persons (other than

¹ The subject products are certain welded light-walled non-alloy steel pipe and tube, of rectangular (including square) cross section, having a wall thickness of less than 4 millimeters (0.156 inch). The subject products have rectangular cross sections ranging from 0.375 x 0.625 inches to 2 x 6 inches, or square sections ranging from 0.375 to 4 inches, regardless of specification.

Appendix B, Attachment B Notice of Intent



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK
P.O. BOX 129
GRAND CANYON, ARIZONA 86023-0129

L7617 (GRCA 8227)

AUG 15 2003

Memorandum

To: *Federal Register* Liaison Officer, WASO-237

From: Superintendent, Grand Canyon National Park

Subject: *Federal Register* publication - Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Fire Management Plan, Grand Canyon National Park.

Enclosed are three signed original NOIs and three copies for publication in the *Federal Register*.

Also enclosed are copies of the briefing statement, an approved purchase request to cover the costs of publication, a memorandum from the Regional Solicitor's Office approving our standard form of notice for legal sufficiency, a floppy disk containing the notice, and a letter to the Director of the Office of the *Federal Register* stating the disk is certified to be a true copy of the original document.

Joseph F. Alston

Enclosures (11)

cc:

Jacob J. Hoogland, Environmental Quality Division, 1201 Eye Street, 11th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20005

Willie Taylor, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, 1849 C Street NW, Room 2340, Washington, DC 20240

Roxanne Runkel, NPS, Intermountain SO-Denver, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO., 80225-0287

Appendix B, Attachment B Notice of Intent



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK
P.O. BOX 129
GRAND CANYON, ARIZONA 86023-0129

L7617 (GRCA 8227)

AUG 15 2003

Ray Mosley, Director
Office of the Federal Register
800 N. Capitol
Room 700
Washington, D.C. 2008

Subject: Federal register publication - Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental Impact Statement for Fire Management Plan, Grand Canyon National Park.

Dear Mr. Mosley:

We hereby certify that the enclosed disk is a true copy of the original subject document, which is also enclosed.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Alston
Superintendent

Enclosures included in transmittal package

cc:

Roxanne Runkel, NPS, Intermountain SO-Denver, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO. 80225-0287

Appendix B, Attachment B Notice of Intent
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

**Fire Management Plan, Environmental Impact Statement, Grand Canyon National Park,
Arizona**

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for a Fire Management Plan for Grand Canyon National Park

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4332 (C), the National Park Service is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Fire Management Plan (FMP) for Grand Canyon National Park. This effort will result in a new wildland fire management plan that meets current policies, provides a framework for making fire-related decisions, and serves as an operational manual. Development of a new fire plan is compatible with the broader goals and objectives presented in Grand Canyon National Park's 1995 General Management Plan (GMP).

The Environmental Impact Statement process will identify and evaluate the environmental impacts of several alternatives for fire management in the park. Alternatives will address resource protection, potential resource impacts, and various mitigation practices necessary or desirable to minimize adverse impacts to resource conditions. Alternatives to be considered will include no-action, and a reasonable range of alternatives that meet the project objectives, including various combinations of fire suppression, wildland fire use, prescribed fire, and mechanical treatments. The Environmental Impact

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Statement process will be conducted in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office, natural resource management agencies, affiliated American Indian tribes, and other interested Federal, state, and local agencies. Attention will also be given to resources outside the boundaries that affect the integrity of Grand Canyon.

Issues are expected to include protection of cultural resources, protection of plant and wildlife habitats, effects on native and non-native species, protection of threatened and endangered species and their habitats, protection of other natural resources, wildland urban interface, fire in proposed wilderness, protection of park neighbors' property, reducing impacts to park visitors, protection of life and property, protection of air quality, effects on tourism, and changes in landscape-scale vegetation patterns.

The public involvement process will include distribution of a scoping document requesting public input and comment. Several public meetings will be held in locations surrounding the park. The scoping document will describe the project in general, identify preliminary issues, and include specific meeting dates and locations. Information can be obtained from Dan Oltrogge, FMP Project Leader, Grand Canyon National Park, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023, 928-638-7822.

DATES: The Park Service will accept comments from the public through [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS FROM DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

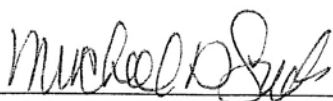
ADDRESSES: Information will be available for public review and comment in the office of the FMO, Dan Oltrogge, Grand Canyon National Park, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023; 928-638-7822.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Oltrogge, FMP Project Leader, Grand Canyon National Park (928) 638-7822 or go to the Grand Canyon Compliance Website at <http://www.nps.gov/grca/compliance>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: If you wish to comment on the scoping document, you may submit your comments by any one of several methods. You may mail comments to FMP Project, Grand Canyon National Park, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023. You may also comment via electronic mail (e-mail) to **GRCA_FMP@nps.gov**. Please submit e-mail comments as a text file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include your name, e-mail address, and return mailing address in your e-mail message. Finally, you may hand-deliver comments to Grand Canyon National Park at the Headquarters building between 8am and 5pm weekdays. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Date: 7/14/03



Michael D. Snyder
Deputy Director, Intermountain Region, National Park Service

Appendix B, Attachment B Notice of Intent

BRIEFING STATEMENT

Unit: Grand Canyon National Park

Title: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Fire Management Plan at Grand Canyon National Park

Congressional Districts:

Arizona	1st District	Rick Renzi
	2 nd District	Trent Franks
	Senate	John McCain, Jon Kyl

Grand Canyon National Park has contacted the Arizona delegation regarding this issue. No major issues were raised, however Senator Kyl has a long-standing interest in Forest Ecosystem Management.

Background:

- Grand Canyon National Park (GRCA) encompasses 1.2 million acres. Approximately 750,000 acres of that has vegetation that will support fire. The Park is divided into three fire management zones, which are based on fuel type. The three major fuel types are pinion-juniper/grasslands, ponderosa pine, and mixed conifer.
- GRCA's fire management program currently operates under the authority of the 1992 Fire Management Plan (FMP), amended in 1998 and 2003. The Park's Fire Management Program will continue to operate under the direction of the 1992 Plan until the revised plan is completed.
- The target completion date for the FMP is September 30, 2004, based on a directive from the Director, Intermountain Region.

Issues:

- GRCA's FMP is being updated in accordance with Director's Order #18: Wildland Fire Management. Because of the potential for significant impacts, the park selected an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as the compliance level for this project. A Notice of Intent (NOI) has been prepared for publication in the Federal Register explaining that an EIS will be done prior to completion of the FMP. The park has awarded a contract to complete an EIS that analyzes the development of a plan for fire management within GRCA.
- GRCA's Fire Management Program operates under the authority of the Park's General Management Plan, Resource Management Plan, 1992 FMP, and the 1998 Amendment to that plan. The current plan and revised plan will comply with the NPS's management document Director's Order #18: Wildland Fire Management, and Chapter 4 of the NPS Reference Manual #18.
- Park staff will work with the contractor to publicize and conduct public scoping meetings, as well as conduct internal scoping. Public meetings will be held in up to five regional cities. Public comments will be reviewed and analyzed by the contractor and Park staff.
- Public comment for this project will commence once the NOI has been approved for submittal.

Appendix B, Attachment B Notice of Intent
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- Several key issues will be addressed in the Park's FMP. Those issues include air quality, fire management within proposed wilderness areas threatened and endangered species, sites with cultural and historical significance, and wildland-urban interface.
- The NPS is proposing to address these issues as follows:

Air Quality - In cooperation with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), Grand Canyon National Park's fire management program will comply with State burn regulations through implementation of the park's Smoke Management Plan.

Fire Management within Proposed Wilderness Areas – Grand Canyon National Park will comply with the Minimum Requirement Analysis Process for fire management activities within Grand Canyon National Park's proposed Wilderness. The FMP will not address the topic of wilderness designation.

Threatened and Endangered Species – Park Wildlife biologists will work in close coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

Cultural and Historical sites – Park Archeologists will work in close coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office to comply with Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act and the Archeological Resource Protection Act.

Wildland-Urban Interface – The Park's South Rim Village, North Rim developed area, and Desert View communities are all identified as AT RISK from the threat of wildland fires in the Federal Register, Volume 66, #160, dated Friday, August 17, 2001. Risks are mitigated through compliance with Grand Canyon National Park's Defensible Space Standards. Mechanical treatment projects were implemented in the South Rim developed area in 1996 and 2000. A combination of mechanical treatment projects and implementation of an approved burn plan have been used to mitigate risks in the North Rim developed area.

- Park staff has advised local cooperators that a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for the FMP is expected to be published in the Federal Register in the near future.
- To date, the park has received minimal interest related to this issue.

Contact: Joseph Alston, Park Superintendent, Grand Canyon National Park, 928-638-7945
Dan Oltrogge, Fire Management Officer, Grand Canyon National Park 928-638-7822

Appendix B, Attachment B Notice of Intent
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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR
Field Office, Southwest Region
P. O. Box 1042
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-1042

February 26, 2002

Telefax Only: (303) 969-2644

To: Laurie Domler, National Park Service, Planning and
Environmental Quality, Denver, CO

From: Arthur Arguedas, Field Solicitor
Santa Fe, NM

Subject: Federal Register Notices

This office has reviewed the new format for Federal Register notices
that you forwarded on February 6, 2002.

We have no legal objection to the new format.

If you have any questions, please call me at (505) 988-6200.

Appendix B, Attachment B Notice of Intent

Example 4B



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR
Field Office, Southwest Region
P.O. Box 1042
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-1042

February 26, 2002

Telefax Only: (303) 969-2644

To: Laurie Conier, National Park Service, Planning and
Environmental Quality, Denver, CO

From: Arthur Arguedas, Field Solicitor
Santa Fe, NM

Subject: Federal Register Notices

This office has reviewed the new format for Federal Register
notices that you forwarded on February 6, 2002.

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If you have any questions, please call me at (505) 988-6200.

Art Arguedas

Appendix B, Attachment B Notice of Intent

Aug-08-03 01:11P GRAND CANYON NATL PARK 520 638 7799

P. 01

Purchase Request (DRAFT)	Title R8227034006-Federal Register	Document Number R8227034006	Page 1 of 4
	Purchase Request Date 08/07/2003	Acctg Period /	Priority
Requestor See Additional Data for details () - ext.		Type of Action <input type="radio"/> Simplified Purchase <input type="radio"/> Task Order <input type="radio"/> Competitive Contract <input type="radio"/> GSA Schedule <input type="radio"/> Non-Competitive Contract <input type="radio"/> Fed. Supply Schedule <input type="radio"/> Interagency Agreement <input type="radio"/> Wa Contract <input type="radio"/> Delivery Order <input type="radio"/> Modification	
Requesting Office IMR - GRCA - Grand Canyon National Park		Ship To IMR - GRCA - Grand Canyon National Park Attn: Reed Powell (Cub), Warehouse Supervisor P.O. Box 129 (Albright & Center Rds)	
Issuing Office IMR GRCA - Grand Canyon National Park		Grand Canyon. A7 86023-0128	
Contact		Phone: (520) 638-7719 ext. Fax: (520) 638-7799 ext.	
Schedule Number		Delivery Date 08/07/2003	
BPA Number		Comments Federal register publication- Notice of Intent to prepared an Environmental Impact Statement for Fire Management Plan, Grand Canyon National Park	
Contract Number			
Suggested Vendor(s) Federal Register			
Funding \$279.00			
Approval:			
Signature		Date	
Printed Name			

Appendix B, Attachment B Notice of Intent

Aug-08-03 01:11P GRAND CANYON NATL PARK 520 638 7799

P. 02

Additional Data (DRAFT)	Title R8227034006-Federal Register	Document Number R8227034006	Page 2 of 4
	Purchase Request Date 08/01/2003	Acctg Period /	Priority
Additional Point of Contact (POC) Information ATTN: Phone () - ext. FAX () - ext.		Additional Point of Contact (POC) Information ATTN: Phone () - ext. FAX () - ext.	
Requestors	Dan Oltrogge (928) 638-7822 ext. Roxanne Runkel (303) 969-2377 ext.		
Requesting Office	IMR - GRCA - Grand Canyon National Park		
Additional Suggested Vendor(s) Federal Register			

Appendix B, Attachment B Notice of Intent

Aug-08-03 01:11P GRAND CANYON NATL PARK 520 638 7799

P.04

Address Detail	Title	Document Number	Page
	R8227034006-Federal Register	R8227034006	4 of 4

Shipping Addresses

Code	Detail
0001	Org: IMR - GRCA - Grand Canyon National Park Addr: P.O. Box 129 (Albright & Center Rds) Grand Canyon AZ 86023 0129 Attn: Reed Powell (Cub), Warehouse Supervisor Phone: (520) 638-7719 ext Fax: (520) 638-7799 ext

Invoice Addresses

Code	Detail
0001	Org: IMR - GRCA - Grand Canyon National Park Addr: P.O. Box 129 (Albright & Center Rds) Grand Canyon AZ 86023-0129 Attn: Sue Druschke, Contract Specialist Phone: (520) 638-7715 ext Fax: (520) 638-7799 ext

Requisitioning Office Addresses

Code	Detail
0001	Org: IMR - GRCA - Grand Canyon National Park Addr: P.O. Box 129 (Albright & Center Rds) Grand Canyon AZ 86023-0129 Attn: Sue Druschke, Contract Specialist Phone: (520) 638-7715 ext Fax: (520) 638-7799 ext

Appendix B, Attachment C

2003 Scoping Letter Comment Form
Mailing List Press Release



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK
P.O. BOX 129
GRAND CANYON, ARIZONA 86023-0129

Y15 (GRCA 8227)

SEP 30 2008

Dear Interested Party:

Subject: Fire Management Plan Revision

Reference: Request for Comments on the Preparation of a New Fire Management Plan (General Scoping)

Grand Canyon National Park has initiated the process to update the existing Fire Management Plan. This plan, prepared in 1992, revised in 1995, and amended in 1998, needs to be revised. The National Park Service is now beginning the preparation of a new fire management plan that incorporates the latest science and the most recent federal fire policy to guide the fire management program at Grand Canyon National Park.

Purpose and Need for Action

National Park Service Director's Order 18 states that "Each park with vegetation capable of burning will prepare a fire management plan to guide a fire management program that is responsive to the Park's natural and cultural resource objectives and to safety considerations for park visitors, employees, and developed facilities." When completed, the Grand Canyon National Park Fire Management Plan will describe a detailed program of actions to carry out fire management policies and objectives at Grand Canyon National Park. The plan is needed in order to fully recognize the importance of fire management in promoting ecosystem sustainability; to prescribe methods to protect communities, developed areas, cultural resources and key wildlife habitat from unwanted, high-intensity wildland fires; to form the basis for short- and long-term project planning and scheduling; to form the basis for communication, coordination and project planning with regulatory and partner agencies; to provide a framework for managing fire in wilderness areas for wilderness resource goals and to minimize impacts to visitors in these areas; and because periodic maintenance of helispots and roads is necessary for the implementation of the Fire Management Plan.

The goals of the plan have their foundations in the Park's planning documents, including the General Management Plan (1995), Resources Management Plan (1997) and Backcountry Management Plan (1988) as well as in NPS and federal legislation and fire policy; The National Park Service Organic Act; and the legislation establishing Grand Canyon National Park. The fire management plan interdisciplinary team has been

working on the development of goals and objectives of the plan. Preliminary goals of the fire management plan are listed below. These are just that, preliminary, and may be revised as we work through the planning process. Issues or concerns you may have related to these preliminary goals are welcome.

1. **Ensure human life, health and safety.** The protection of firefighters and the public is the first priority in every fire management activity and during all phases of the fire management program.
2. **Identify and implement methods to restore and maintain park ecosystems and ecosystem processes that allow fire to play its natural role in the ecosystem, both as wildland fire and prescribed fire, to the maximum extent possible.** The natural interactions between fire and the environment should influence the type, abundance, and distribution of plants and animals in the park. A primary goal of the fire management plan is to restore or maintain natural fire regimes so that ecosystems can function without human interference, while also reducing the risk of large, unwanted wildfires..
3. **Reduce the risk of wildland fire to communities and developed areas in the wildland/urban interface.** The goal in these areas is to use fire management treatments to reduce the risk of unwanted wildland fire while restoring plant community structure.
4. **Fire management actions in proposed and potential wilderness areas will be managed for effective and consistent protection and restoration of wilderness values.**
5. **Aid in the preservation and/or restoration of key natural resources, such as special status wildlife and plant species habitats and riparian areas.**
6. **Aid in the preservation of cultural resources.** This goal recognizes that archeological sites, historic districts, historic structures, cultural landscapes and ethnographic resources are more at risk when heavy fuel loads burn than when frequent fires burn in light fuel accumulations.
7. **Use adaptive management to effectively incorporate scientific knowledge and monitoring results into fire management and policy.** Adaptive management is a concept for addressing uncertainty in environmental management. Management plans designed with built-in continuous assessment and processes for improvement allow for adjustments during project implementation based upon new findings.
8. **Incorporate the social aspects of project management into the fire program, including such things as smoke management, visibility, and visitor experience.**

9. **Promote education, information and collaboration on the fire education and operation program with adjacent landowners, stakeholders, and the public.**
10. **Manage wildland fires to reduce smoke impacts on human health and visibility.** Management options can include non-burning alternatives to fire, timing fires to take advantage of good smoke dispersal, and limiting the fuels available to fires.

Under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, The National Park Service is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as an essential part of this revision. This EIS will provide a comprehensive analysis of the impacts of various fire management alternatives to park resources.

Planning Process

There are typically three broad phases to producing a plan like this, with each phase consisting of various steps. During Phase One the planning team sets goals, identifies issues and collects data related to these issues. Phase Two efforts focus on defining alternative means for achieving goals and resolving issues. Phase Three consists of identifying a preferred alternative. Key public involvement steps occur during Phases One and Two. We are currently in Phase One where public input is gathered through written comment, electronic outreach and public meetings. During Phase Two the public will be invited to comment on a draft EIS.

How You Can Be Involved

Your input is very important to us and we invite your active participation in this process. There are a number of ways in which you can be involved. These include:

1. **Write:** Fill out the attached comment form and mail it to the address on the form no later than November 17, 2003. Comments may also be submitted separately in writing to this same address, or by email to grca_fmp@nps.gov. Please submit comments as a text file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include your name, email address and mailing address in your message.
2. **Attend Public Scoping Meetings:** A series of public open houses will be held this fall in Phoenix, Flagstaff, Kanab, and Grand Canyon. Dates and locations for these workshops are as follows:

Kanab, Utah: Wednesday, October 15, 2003. The meeting will be held from 4 pm to 7 pm at the Holiday Inn Express at 815 East Highway 89 in Kanab.

Page, Arizona: Monday, October 20, 2003. The meeting will be held from 4 pm to 7 pm at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, 691 Scenic View Drive.

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2003 Scoping Letter Comment Form
Mailing List Press Release

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Grand Canyon, Arizona: Tuesday October 21, 2003. The meeting will be held from 4 pm to 8 pm in the Community Building in Grand Canyon National Park.

Phoenix, Arizona: Wednesday, October 22, 2003. The meeting will be held from 4 pm to 7 pm at Fire Station Number 30, 2701 W. Belmont (1 block south of Northern).

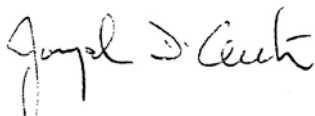
Flagstaff, Arizona: Thursday, October 23, 2003. The meeting will be held from 4:15 pm to 7:30 pm at the Flagstaff Public Library, 300 West Aspen.

3. **Stay Informed:** Visit www.nps.gov/grca/fire/plan to keep apprised of the planning process and to submit comments during public comment periods. Our goal is to post all future information and documents related to the fire management plan on this website.

Please note names and addresses of respondents become part of the public record and may be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act. Comments, including name and home address of respondents will be available for public review in our office during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request their name and home address be withheld from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. If you would like your name and/or address withheld, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

We appreciate your involvement in this process. If you have any specific questions regarding the fire management planning process, please call Dan Oltrogge, Fire Management Officer, at 928-638-7822.

Sincerely,



Joseph F. Alston
Superintendent

Attachment

cc:

Dan Oltrogge (GRCA 8227)
Jill Beshears (GRCA 8213)

Appendix B, Attachment C

**2003 Scoping Letter Comment Form
Mailing List Press Release**

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If you would like to receive a printed copy of the Environmental Impact Statement for this project when it is complete, please contact the park in writing at the address on the comment form (P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023), by calling Sara White, Compliance Officer, at (928) 638-7956, or by email to grca_fmp@nps.gov. and one will be sent to you during the comment period. If you do not respond to this request or do not otherwise comment during the public scoping period, a hard copy of the EIS will not be sent to you. However, please note that the EIS (when complete) will be available on the Grand Canyon National Park website at <http://www.nps.gov/grca/fire/plan>.

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2003 Scoping Letter Comment Form
Mailing List Press Release

Grand Canyon

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Grand Canyon National Park



FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Record comments for each issue of concern. Your complete and concise comments will enable NPS to properly identify issues and organize them for analysis. Please feel free to attach pages as needed for any additional comments.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

☐ Please keep my name and address confidential.

Comments:

•

•

•

•

•

Comments, including name and home address of respondents, will be available for public review in our office during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request their name and home address be withheld from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. If you would like your name and/or address withheld, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

There are three ways to submit comments:

1. Fill out this form, fold it to show the pre-printed address on the reverse, then stamp, seal and mail.
2. Visit www.nps.gov/grca/fire/plan and fill out this form electronically.
3. Send an email to grca_fmp@nps.gov. Please submit email comments as a text file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include your name, email address and mailing address in your message.

Please submit your comments no later than November 17, 2003.

Appendix B, Attachment C

**2003 Scoping Letter Comment Form
Mailing List Press Release**

Grand Canyon National Park
Attention: Fire Management Plan
P.O. Box 129
Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023

Appendix B, Attachment C

**2003 Scoping Letter Comment Form
Mailing List Press Release**

MS RHONDA BARBIERI
PO BOX 121
ORCAS ISLAND WA 98280

MS LIZ BOUSSARD
6755 EAST EAGLE CREST DR
FLAGSTAFF AZ 86004

MR BOB DINEGAR
PO BOX 1870
CAMP VERDE AZ 86322

MR CHUCK SYPHER
PO BOX 1538
GRAND CANYON AZ 86023

MR LAWRENCE STEVENS
PO BOX 1315
FLAGSTAFF AZ 86002

MR NOEL EBERZ
4433 KATHY RD
FLAGSTAFF AZ 86001

MR ALAN SPICER
5130 SUNSET STRIP
WILLIAMS AZ 86046

MR CARLOS SOTOMAYOR
837 W INGLEWOOD
MESA AZ 85201

MR ALAN SANDERS
232 N THIRD
PORT HUENEME CA 93041

MR HERM HOOPS
PO BOX 163
JENSEN UTAH 84035

MR BRUCE ROBBINS
42 W OCOTILLO
PHOENIX AZ 85013

MR NAT WHITE
1400 W MARS HILL RD
FLAGSTAFF AZ 86001

MR MARTOS HOFFMAN
3381 SOUTH CAROL DRIVE
FLAGSTAFF AZ 86001

MR RONALD RAMSEY
PO BOX 710
CAMP VERDE AZ 86322

MR BILL POOL
2249 E CHRISTY DR
PHOENIX AZ 85028-3106

MR LARRY DEIBEL
1127 N AZUVE DRIVE
FLAGSTAFF AZ 86001-1112

MR DARREN SMITH
517 1/2 PLACER DRIVE
GRAND JUNCTION CO 81504

MR DOUG PETERS
7710 W BRIDLE TRAIL
FLAGSTAFF AZ 86001

MR JACK GALLAGHER
PO BOX 9
GRAND CANYON AZ 86023

MR BRIAN HANSEN
145 CELILO
FLAGSTAFF AZ 86001

MR SHANE EDWARDS
1977 S DOUGLAS STREET
SALT LAKE CITY UTAH 84105

MR GARY ROBBINS
121 E BIRCH AVE STE #504
FLAGSTAFF AZ 86001

MR JOHN MIDDENDORF
811 W BIRCH AVE
FLAGSTAFF AZ 86001

MR DAVID KING
12447 KOKOMO DR
VICTORVILLE, CA 92392

MR WM WAKELAND
19526 TRAIL BAY DR
EAGLE RIVER AK 99577-8825

MS BARBARA FISCHER
PO BOX 711
GRAND CANYON AZ 86023

MR JOEL BARNES
1022 CANYON DR
PRESCOTT AZ 86303

MR THOMAS JOHN BARRY
845 MIDDLEBROOK
PRESCOTT AZ 86303

MS JENNIFER BELTZ
3127 N GRANDVIEW DR
FLAGSTAFF AZ 86004-1623

MS CECELIA BEREND
401 W RIVIERA DR
TEMPE AZ 85282

Appendix B, Attachment C

**2003 Scoping Letter Comment Form
Mailing List Press Release**

MR DAN & ANNETTE BLAKLEY
912 12TH AVE NE
ROCHESTER MN 55906-7106

MR STEPHAN BLOCK
2905 BLUE RANCH RD
COTTONWOOD AZ 86326-7089

MR TOM WAHLQUIST
PO BOX 513
PEACH SPRINGS AZ 86434

MS MARY SHELP
PO BOX 23153
GLAD PARK CO 81523-0512

MS LINA WALLEN
3716 N GRANDVIEW DR
FLAGSTAFF AZ 86004

MS NANCY BOOTH
PO BOX 158
GRAND CANYON AZ 86023

MS MARY JEAN BUBLITZ
781 E HILLTOP AVE
FLAGSTAFF AZ 86001

MR DANIEL F CASSIDY
2112 DEMERSE AVE
PRESCOTT AZ 86301-1060

MR TOM GLATZMAYER
PO BOX 741
GRAND CANYON AZ 86023

MR DONALD ZIEGLER
5110 N 32ND ST #404
PHOENIX AZ 85018

MS CAROLE YOUNGBERG
HC 67 BOX 34
MARBLE CANYON AZ 86036

MR MIKE DAVIS
5105 CRESTVIEW ST
FLAGSTAFF AZ 86004

MR ANTHONY WILLIAMS
PO BOX 305
FREDONIA AZ 86022

MR/MRS VERN/MURIEL SCHULTZ
9 S MURPHY WAY
PRESCOTT AZ 86303-5727

MR JOE KEYS
PO BOX 1080
CLIFTON CO 81520

MR LARRY & JOYCE LUCAS
602 S 76TH PL
MESA AZ 85208

MR HAL JENSEN
604 N BEAVER ST
FLAGSTAFF AZ 86001

MR ROSS SMITH
9140 E JENAN
SCOTTSDALE AZ 85260

MS CLIFF LANGNESS
PO BOX 1385
PAGE AZ 86040

MR DANIEL KUHL
3742 W VISTA
PHOENIX AZ 85051

MS DIANE LAVOIE
2112 DEMERSE AVE
PRESCOTT AZ 86301

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Mailing List Press Release**

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Mailing List Press Release**

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MS SHARON GALBREATH COLORADO PLATEAU GROUP SIERRA CLUB PO BOX 38 FLAGSTAFF AZ 86002	MS SANDY BAHR CONSERVATION OUTREACH DIR SIERRA CLUB, GR CYN CHAPTER 202 E MCDOWELL RD #277 PHOENIX AZ 85004-4536	MR KARL HOVANITZ SILVERADO STAGES PO BOX 15636 SAN LUIS OBISPO CA 93406-5636
MR EB EBERLEIN SKY ISLAND TREKS 928 SOUTH SEVENTH AVE TUCSON AZ 85701	MR VAN WOLF SNELL & WILMER 1 ARIZONA CENTER PHOENIX AZ 85004-0001	MR MIKE MATZ SO UTAH WILDERNESS ALL 1471 SOUTH 1100 EAST SALT LAKE CITY UT 84105
MR LUTHER PROPST SONORAN INSTITUTE 7650 E BROADWAY BLVD, #203 TUCSON AZ 85710	BRANCH OF FORESTRY SOUTHERN PUEBLOS AGENCY PO BOX 1667 ALBUQUERQUE NM 87103	SOUTHWEST FOREST ALLIANCE PO BOX 1948 FLAGSTAFF AZ 86002
MS CECILY HARDING STEAK HOUSE PO BOX 1976 GRAND CANYON AZ 86023	MR SAM HENDERSON SUPERINTENDENT SUNSET CRAW/WUPATKI/WALNUT 6400 N HWY 89 FLAGSTAFF AZ 86004	MS LYNN NEAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS SWCA 114 N SAN FRANCISCO # 100 FLAGSTAFF AZ 86001
WEATHER SERVICES SWCC PREDICTIVE SVCS GROUP 333 BROADWAY SE ALBUQUERQUE NM 87002	BRANCH OF FORESTRY TAOS NPA AGENCY PO BOX 2389 TAOS NM 87571	MR FRANK GIAQUINTO GENERAL MANAGER THE GRAND HOTEL PO BOX 3319 GRAND CANYON AZ 86023

Appendix B, Attachment C

**2003 Scoping Letter Comment Form
Mailing List Press Release**

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY 1510 E FORT LOWELL RD TUCSON AZ 85719-2313	THE PLANNING CENTER 1580 METRO DR COSTA MESA CA 92626-1427	MR ERIC GUEISSAZ OWNER THE TUSAYAN CAFÉ PO BOX 568 GRAND CANYON AZ 86023
MR DAVE FOREMAN THE WILDERNESS PROJECT PO BOX 32577 TUCSON AZ 85751-2577	MR THOMAS OLSEN THOMAS OLSEN ASSOC INC 8750 W ANTOINETTE WAY FLAGSTAFF AZ 86001	FIRE MANAGEMENT TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION PO BOX 400 SELLS AZ 85634
ATTN: FIRE MANAGEMENT TONTON NATIONAL FOREST 2324 E MCDOWELL RD PHOENIX AZ 85006	MR PETER SHELBO TOUR WEST AMERICA INC 333 S MAIN ST YUMA AZ 85364	MR SUSAN HARDING TOUR WEST INC PO BOX 333 OREM UT 84059
BRANCH OF FORESTRY TRUXTON CANON PO BOX 37 VALENTINE AZ 86437	MR WAYNE A COOK PRESIDENT TUSAYAN BROADCASTING INC 30600 N PIMA RD #135 SCOTTSDALE AZ 85262	MR WADE ALBRECHT INSTRUCTIONAL SPECIALIST U OF A COCONINO COOPERATIVE 2304 N 3RD ST FLAGSTAFF AZ 86004
COCONINO CNTY COOP EXTEN UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA 2304 NORTH 3RD ST FLAGSTAFF AZ 86004-3605	MR DAVID HARLOW FIELD SUPERVISOR US FISH & WILDLIFE SVC 2321 W ROYAL PALM RD #103 PHOENIX AZ 85021	MR BILL AUSTIN FLAGSTAFF SUBOFFICE US FISH & WILDLIFE SVC 323 NORTH LEROUX FLAGSTAFF AZ 86001
FIRE MGMT SW REGIONAL OFF US FISH AND WILDLIFE SVC PO BOX 1306 ALBUQUERQUE NM 87103	MS CAROLE WILSON NETWORKING FCLTY US WEST COMMUNICATIONS 1201 W HIGHWAY 66, RM 208 FLAGSTAFF AZ 86001	AVIATION & FIRE MGMT DIV USDA FOREST SVC, SW REGION 333 BROADWAY BLVD SE ALBUQUERQUE NM 87102
MR DAVID MICHAEL USFS 631 COYOTE ST NEVADA CITY CA 95959	MS PATRICIA SPOERL RECR & LANDS STAFF OFFICER USFS, CORONADO NATL FOREST 300 W CONGRESS TUCSON AZ 85701	MR JOHN EAVIS RECR/WILDERNESS SPECIALIST USFS, KAIBAB NATL FOREST 800 S 6TH STREET WILLIAMS AZ 86046
MR MIKE WILLIAMS FOREST SUPERVISOR USFS, KAIBAB NATL FOREST 800 SOUTH 6TH STREET WILLIAMS AZ 86046	MS JILL LEONARD DISTRICT RANGER USFS, N KAIBAB RANGER DIST 430 SOUTH MAIN FREDONIA AZ 86022	MR LUCIA TURNER DEPUTY REGN FORESTER USFS, SOUTHWEST REGION 333 BROADWAY BLVD SE ALBUQUERQUE NM 87102-3498
TSYN DISTRICT RANGER USFS, TUSAYAN RANGER DIST PO BOX 3088 GRAND CANYON AZ 86023	MR TOM WATANABE PRESIDENT VACATION TOURS INC 9151 LAS VEGAS BLVD S #318 LAS VEGAS NV 89123-3355	MR ROBERT MATHER PROJECT DIRECTOR VAN DIJK PACE WESTLAKE ONE E CAMELBACK RD, #690 PHOENIX AZ 85012-1668
MR & MRS DAN ASHLEY MANAGER VERKAMPS INC PO BOX 96 GRAND CANYON AZ 86023	MR GLEN GRAY VISION AIR 2634 AIRPORT DR #106 N LAS VEGAS NV 89030	REFERENCE DEPT WASHINGTON CNTY LIBRARY 50 SOUTH MAIN ST GEORGE UT 84770

Appendix B, Attachment C

**2003 Scoping Letter Comment Form
Mailing List Press Release**

MANAGER
WE COOK PIZZA
PO BOX 3085
GRAND CANYON AZ 86023

WEATHER SVC FORECAST OFFICE
PO BOX 16057
FLAGSTAFF AZ 86015-6057

WEATHER SVC FORECAST OFFICE
PAB 500, PO BOX 52025
PHOENIX AZ 85072-2025

MR TOM JORDAN
MANAGER
WENDYS
PO BOX 1519
GRAND CANYON AZ 86023

MS SANDY HARMER
G C RESERVATIONS MGR
WESTERN RIVER EXPED INC
7258 RACQUET CLUB DRIVE
SALT LAKE CITY UT 84121

MS ASHLEY KORENBLAT
WESTERN SPIRIT CYCLING
478 MILL CREEK RD
MOAB UT 84532

CO PLATEAU REGION
WILDERNESS SOCIETY
7475 DAKIN STREET, SUITE 4
DENVER CO 80221

MR MICHAEL VASQUEZ
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
WILLIAMS / GRAND CANYON
200 W RAILROAD AVE
WILLIAMS AZ 86046-2556

MS DONNA COCHRAN
EXEC DIR/CHAMBER OF COMMER
WILLIAMS / GRAND CANYON
200 WEST RAILROAD AVE
WILLIAMS AZ 86046

REFERENCE DEPT
WILLIAMS PUBLIC LIBRARY
113 SOUTH 1ST STREET
WILLIAMS AZ 86046

DIRECTOR
WILLIAMS VISITOR CENTER
200 W RAILROAD AVE
WILLIAMS AZ 86046

MR MARK WOODSON
PRESIDENT
WOODSON ENGINEERING
124 NORTH ELDON ST, #100
FLAGSTAFF AZ 86001

MR STEVE TEDDER
VICE PRES - NATL PARKS
XANTERRA PARKS & RESORTS
14001 E ILIFF, SUITE 600
AURORA CO 80014

MR ANDY TODD
PRESIDENT
XANTERRA PARKS & RESORTS
14001 E ILIFF, SUITE 600
AURORA CO 80014

MR JEFF DUNI
VICE PRES - DEVELOPMENT
XANTERRA PARKS & RESORTS
14001 E ILIFF, SUITE 600
AURORA CO 80014

MR GORDON TAYLOR
ZION LODGE
ZION NATIONAL PARK
SPRINGDALE UT 84767

MR MARTY OTT
SUPERINTENDENT
ZION NATIONAL PARK
SPRINGDALE UT 84767-1099

BRANCH OF FORESTRY
ZUNI AGENCY
BOX 369
ZUNI NM 87327

2003 Scoping Letter Comment Form
Mailing List Press Release

MR NOEL EBERZ
4433 KATHY RD
FLAGSTAFF AZ 86001

EBER433 880012040 1402 16 10/02/03
FORWARD TIME 'EXP RTN TO SEND
EBERZ
PO BOX 380
NAALEHU HI 96772-0380

←--RETURN TO SENDER NOT DELIVERABLE AS ADDRESSED

PHOENIX, AZ (OCR F8) 10-03 04:34

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PO BOX 45344
PHOENIX AZ 85064-5344

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PRIVATE
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231073
GRAND CANYON
SEP 30 '68
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☒ Not Delivered As Addressed
☐ Unable To Forward
☐ No Valid Address
☐ Mailed Left No Address
☐ Unforwarded
☐ Returned
☐ Assumed-Not Known
☒ No Such Street/Number
☐ Vacant
☐ Ineligible
☐ No Mail Recipients
☐ Box Closed-No Order
☐ Returned For Better Address
☐ Postage Due

Mr.
 Paid
 600
 Ced

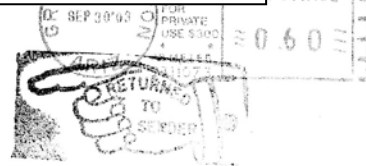
Ms. Laurie Thom
Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
600 North 100 East
Cedar City, Utah 84720

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2003 Scoping Letter Comment Form
Mailing List Press Release

ID CANYON NATIONAL PARK
P.O. BOX 129
CANYON ARIZONA 86023-0129

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MR GARY ROBBINS
121 E BIRCH AVE STE #504
FLAGSTAFF AZ 86001

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UNABLE TO FORWARD



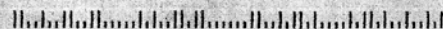
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
CANYON NATIONAL PARK
P.O. BOX 129
ANYON ARIZONA 86023-0129

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

MS RENE BROGLI
CROSSROADS ADV USA INC
PO BOX 83546
LOS ANGELES CA 90083



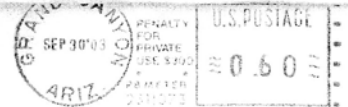
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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
CANYON NATIONAL PARK
P.O. BOX 129
ANYON ARIZONA 86023-0129

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

GARKANE POWER
PO BOX 790
RICHFIELD UT 84701



GARKANE POWER & ENERGY
PO BOX 790
RICHFIELD UT 84701

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2003 Scoping Letter Comment Form
Mailing List Press Release

SEP 30 2001

LJoe
AHorn
DNemeth
DOltrogge
TGabaldon
CGriffith
CPergiel
LPowell
JAlston

L7617 (GRCA 8213 8227)

Dear (~~SEE~~ Attached List):

Grand Canyon National Park has initiated the process to update the existing Fire Management Plan. This plan, prepared in 1992, revised in 1995, and amended in 1998, needs to be revised. The revised plan will incorporate the latest science and the most recent federal fire policy to guide the fire management program at Grand Canyon National Park.

National Park Service Director's Order 18 states that "Each park with vegetation capable of burning will prepare a fire management plan to guide a fire management program that is responsive to the Park's natural and cultural resource objectives and to safety considerations for park visitors, employees, and developed facilities." When completed, the Grand Canyon National Park Fire Management Plan will describe a detailed program of actions to carry out fire management policies and objectives in Grand Canyon National Park. The goals of the plan have their foundations in the Park's planning documents, including the General Management Plan (1995), Resources Management Plan (1997) and Backcountry Management Plan (1988) as well as in NPS and federal legislation and fire policy; The National Park Service Organic Act; and the legislation establishing Grand Canyon National Park. The fire management plan interdisciplinary team has been working on the development of goals and objectives of the plan. Preliminary goals of the fire management plan are listed below. These are just that, preliminary, and may be revised as we work through the planning process. Issues or concerns you may have related to these preliminary goals are welcome.

1. **Ensure human life, health and safety.** The protection of firefighters and the public is the first priority in every fire management activity and during all phases of the fire management program.
2. **Identify and implement methods to restore and maintain park ecosystems and**

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**2003 Scoping Letter Comment Form
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ecosystem processes that allow fire to play its natural role in the ecosystem, both as wildland fire and prescribed fire, to the maximum extent possible. The natural interactions between fire and the environment should influence the type, abundance, and distribution of plants and animals in the park. A primary goal of the fire management plan is to restore or maintain natural fire regimes so that ecosystems can function without human interference, while also reducing the risk of large, unwanted wildfires.

- 3. Reduce the risk of wildland fire to communities and developed areas in the wildland/urban interface.** The goal in these areas is to use fire management treatments to reduce the risk of unwanted wildland fire while restoring plant community structure.
- 4. Fire management actions in proposed and potential wilderness areas will be managed for effective and consistent protection and restoration of wilderness values.**
- 5. Aid in the preservation and/or restoration of key natural resources, such as special status wildlife and plant species habitats and riparian areas.**
- 6. Aid in the preservation of cultural resources.** This goal recognizes that archeological sites, historic structures, cultural landscapes and ethnographic resources are more at risk when heavy fuel loads burn than when frequent fires burn in light fuel accumulations.
- 7. Use adaptive management to effectively incorporate scientific knowledge and monitoring results into fire management and policy.** Adaptive management is a concept for addressing uncertainty in environmental management. Management plans designed with built-in continuous assessment and processes for improvement allow for adjustments during project implementation based upon new findings.
- 8. Incorporate the social aspects of project management into the fire program, including such things as smoke management, visibility, and visitor experience.**
- 9. Promote education, information and collaboration on the fire education and operation program with adjacent landowners, stakeholders, and the public.**
- 10. Manage wildland fires to reduce smoke impacts on human health and visibility.** Management options can include non-burning alternatives to fire, timing fires to take advantage of good smoke dispersal, and limiting the fuels available to fires.

Under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, The National Park Service is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as an essential part of this revision. This EIS will provide a comprehensive analysis of the impacts of various fire management alternatives to park resources.

As we initiate consultation with you on this plan and the accompanying EIS, we ask for identification of a single staff member who can be a point of contact with my staff. We

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recognize that a number of your staff may wish to comment on various aspects of the park's management of wildland fire, and we encourage wide distribution of the information pertaining to the plan revision. A single contact person, however, representing your office would make communication much easier as we enter into consultation.

Once appropriate contact persons have been identified, we would like to set up a meeting with your staff specialists to discuss issues of mutual concern related to the management of wildland fire in Grand Canyon National Park. We view coordination with your office and staff as crucial to this planning process. Please contact Park Archeologist Amy Horn at (928) 638-7742 with your contact person and any questions you may have by October 31, 2003.

For your information, the public scoping process for this project will involve distribution of a scoping letter and comment form for public response and comment. Public meetings will be held in Phoenix, Flagstaff, Kanab, and Grand Canyon (see attached list). We encourage you and any of your staff to attend any one of these meetings. In addition to the public scoping meetings, we are available to meet with you and your staff at your request about the Fire Management Plan and the process for developing the plan and environmental impact statement.

We appreciate your interest in Grand Canyon and hope that the process we are about to begin will better incorporate the concerns and interests of the tribe in the park's management of the wildland fire in Grand Canyon National Park. As we indicated during the General Management Plan process, we consider integration of tribal issues a key component to all park management.

Sincerely,



Joseph F. Alston
Superintendent

Enclosure

cc:
See Attached Copy

Appendix B, Attachment C

**2003 Scoping Letter Comment Form
Mailing List Press Release**

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Cc:

Ed Natay, Southwest System Support Office, Santa Fe – via cemail
Mr. Leigh Kuwanwisiwma, Cultural Preservation Officer, The Hopi Tribe, P.O. Box 123,
Kykotsmovi, Arizona 86039
Mr. Jonathan Damp, Zuni Heritage and Historic Preservation, The Pueblo of Zuni, P.O. Box 339,
Zuni, New Mexico 87327-0339
Ms. Brenda Drye, The Kaibab Paiute Indian Tribe, HC-65, Box 2, Pipe Spring, AZ 86022
Mr. Timothy Begay, Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department, P.O. Box 4950, Window
Rock, Arizona 86515
Mr. Robert Begay, Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department, P.O. Box 4950, Window
Rock, Arizona 86515
Mr. Roland Manakaja, The Havasupai Tribe, P.O. Box 10, Supai, Arizona 86435
Mr. John Welch, White Mountain Apache Historic Preservation Officer, P.O. Box 507, Fort
Apache, AZ 85926, (928) 338-3033
Mr. Bob McNichols, Superintendent, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Truxton Area Agency,
P.O. Box 37, Valentine, Arizona 86437
Mr. Richard Powski, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Truxton Area Agency, P.O. Box 37,
Valentine, Arizona 86437
Ms. Amy Heuslein, Environmental Protection Specialist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, One North
First Street, P.O. Box 10, Phoenix, Arizona 85001

Identical Letters Sent To:

Governor Malcolm Bowekaty
The Pueblo of Zuni
P.O. Box 339
Zuni, New Mexico 87327

Ms. Laurie Thom, Chairperson
Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
600 North 100 East
Cedar City, Utah 84720

Dr. Alan Downer
Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department
P.O. Box 4950
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Ramon Riley, Cultural Resources Director
Nohwike'Bagowa' Cultural Center
P.O. Box 507
Fort Apache, Arizona 85926

Mr. Wayne Taylor, Chairman
The Hopi Tribe
P.O. Box 123
Kykotsmovi, Arizona 86039

Ms. Agnes Chamberlin, Chairwoman
The Havasupai Tribe
P.O. Box 10
Supai, Arizona 86435

Ms. Carmen Bradley, Tribal Chairperson
Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians
Tribal Affairs Building, HC-65, Box 2
Pipe Spring, AZ 86022

Mr. Johnny Murphy Lehi, Tribal President
San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe
P.O. Box 2656
Tuba City, AZ 86045

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**2003 Scoping Letter Comment Form
Mailing List Press Release**

5

bcc:
J Balsom (GRCA-8213)
L Jalbert (GRCA-8213)
J Cross (GRCA-8213)
~~S~~ White (GRCA-8213)

Grand Canyon

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Grand Canyon National Park



FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Public open houses

A series of public open houses will be held this fall in Phoenix, Flagstaff, Kanab, Page, and Grand Canyon. Dates and locations for these workshops are as follows:

Kanab, Utah: Wednesday, October 15, 2003. The meeting will be held from 4 pm to 7 pm at the Holiday Inn Express at 815 East Highway 89 in Kanab.

Page, Arizona: Monday, October 20, 2003. The meeting will be held from 4 pm to 7 pm at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, 691 Scenic View Drive.

Grand Canyon, Arizona: Tuesday October 21, 2003. The meeting will be held from 4 pm to 8 pm in the Community Building in Grand Canyon National Park.

Phoenix, Arizona: Wednesday, October 22, 2003. The meeting will be held from 4 pm to 7 pm at Fire Station Number 30, 2701 W. Belmont (1 block south of Northern).

Flagstaff, Arizona: Thursday, October 23, 2003. The meeting will be held from 4:15 pm to 7:30 pm at the Flagstaff Public Library, 300 West Aspen.

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Mailing List Press Release**

MR JIM HORNING
KENAI HELICOPTERS
PO BOX 316
GRAND CANYON AZ 86023

MR JAMES WARD
KNOXVILLE TOURS INC
PO BOX 12580
KNOXVILLE TN 37912

MR/MS CHRIS & ROBIN HARBIN
KY WOLF INFO CENTER
1057 REASOR AVE
LOUISVILLE KY 40217

BRANCH OF FORESTRY
LAGUNA AGENCY
PO BOX 1448
LAGUNA NM 87026

MR BILL DICKINSON
SUPERINTENDENT
LAKE MEAD NATL REC AREA
601 NEVADA HIGHWAY
BOULDER CITY NV 89005

EDITOR
LAKE POWELL CHRONICLE
PO BOX 1716
PAGE AZ 86040

MS H JANE RAU
DIRECTOR
MCDOWELL SONORAN LAND TRUST
8148 E DALE LN
SCOTTSDALE AZ 85262

BRANCH OF FORESTRY
MESCALERO AGENCY
BOX 189
MESCALERO NM 88340

MR RICHARD QUIST
MOKI MAC RIVER EXPEDITIONS
PO BOX 71242
SALT LAKE CITY UT 84171-0242

MS CHRIS TURK
IMDE-PE
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
PO BOX 25287
DENVER CO 80225

INTERMTN REG SUPPORT OFF
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
PO BOX 25287
DENVER CO 80225-0287

MR HANK PHILLIPS SR
SENIOR VP
NATIONAL TOUR ASSOC
546 E MAIN ST
LEXINGTON KY 40508-2342

MR CHARLES VAN RIPER
NATL BIOLOGICAL SURVEY, NAU
PO BOX 5614
FLAGSTAFF AZ 86011-5614

DIRECTOR
NATURE CONSERVANCY AZ CHAP
333 E VIRGINIA AVE #216
PHOENIX AZ 85004

HEAD/SPECIAL COLL DEPT
NAU CLINE LIBRARY
PO BOX 6022
FLAGSTAFF AZ 86011-6022

ATTN: FIRE MANAGEMENT
NM STATE FORESTRY DIV
PO BOX 1948
SANTA FE NM 87504

BRANCH OF FORESTRY
NORTHERN PUEBLOS AGENCY
PO BOX 4269, FAIRVIEW ST
ESPANOLA NM 87533

MR GEORGE WENDT
OARS INC
PO BOX 67
ANGELS CAMP CA 95222

MR JOHN VAIL
OUTDOORS UNLIMITED
6900 TOWNSEND WINONA RD
FLAGSTAFF AZ 86004

MS JACKIE BARNES
PACIFIC COAST SIGHTSEEING
2001 S MANCHESTER AVE
ANAHEIM CA 92802-3803

REFERENCE DEPT LIBRARIAN
PAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY
PO BOX 1776
PAGE AZ 86040

MS BRENDA HALVORSON
PRESIDENT
PAPILLON GC HELICOPTERS
PO BOX 455
GRAND CANYON AZ 86023

MR RICK CARRICK
PAPILLON GC HELICOPTERS
PO BOX 455
GRAND CANYON AZ 86023

STAFF
PAUL REVERE TRANSPORTATION
PO BOX 1930
GRAND CANYON AZ 86023

MR JAMES O'LEARY
PAUL REVERE TRANSPORTATION
148 STATE ST 11TH FLOOR
BOSTON MA 02109

PROJECT MANAGER
PAUL REVERE TRANSPORTATION
PO BOX 1930
GRAND CANYON AZ 86023

MS JULIE SUSEMIHL
PEAK PERFORMANCE ASSOC INC
2 STOVER LANE
MANITOU SPRINGS CO 80829-2718

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PHOENIX PUBLIC LIBRARY
12 E MCDOWELL ROAD
PHOENIX AZ 85004

FIRE MANAGEMENT
PIMA AGENCY
PO BOX 8
SACATON AZ 85247-0008

EDITOR
PINION PRESS
BOX 699 - AMFAC HUMAN RES
GRAND CANYON AZ 86023

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**2003 Scoping Letter Comment Form
Mailing List Press Release**

DLutch
DNemeth
TGabaldon
DOltrogge
CGriffith
CPergiel
LPowell
JAlston

Y15 (GRCA 8227)

Stephen A. Owens, Director
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
1110 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Mr. Owens:

Grand Canyon National Park has initiated the process to update the existing Fire Management Plan. This plan, prepared in 1992, revised in 1995, and amended in 1998, needs to be revised. The National Park Service is now beginning the preparation of a new fire management plan that incorporates the latest science and the most recent federal fire policy to guide the fire management program at Grand Canyon National Park.

Purpose and Need for Action

National Park Service Director's Order 18 states that "Each park with vegetation capable of burning will prepare a fire management plan to guide a fire management program that is responsive to the Park's natural and cultural resource objectives and to safety considerations for park visitors, employees, and developed facilities." When completed, the Grand Canyon National Park Fire Management Plan will describe a detailed program of actions to carry out fire management policies and objectives at Grand Canyon National Park. The plan is needed in order to fully recognize the importance of fire management in promoting ecosystem sustainability; to prescribe methods to protect communities, developed areas, cultural resources and key wildlife habitat from unwanted, high-intensity wildland fires; to form the basis for short- and long-term project planning and scheduling; to form the basis for communication, coordination and project planning with regulatory and partner agencies; to provide a framework for managing fire in wilderness areas for wilderness resource goals and to minimize impacts to visitors in these areas; and because periodic maintenance of helispots and roads is necessary for the implementation of the Fire Management Plan.

The goals of the plan have their foundations in the Park's planning documents, including the General Management Plan (1995), Resources Management Plan (1997) and Backcountry Management Plan (1988) as well as in NPS and federal legislation and fire

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**2003 Scoping Letter Comment Form
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policy; The National Park Service Organic Act; and the legislation establishing Grand Canyon National Park. The fire management plan interdisciplinary team has been working on the development of goals and objectives of the plan. Preliminary goals of the fire management plan are listed below. These are just that, preliminary, and may be revised as we work through the planning process. Issues or concerns you may have related to these preliminary goals are welcome.

1. **Ensure human life, health and safety.** The protection of firefighters and the public is the first priority in every fire management activity and during all phases of the fire management program.
2. **Identify and implement methods to restore and maintain park ecosystems and ecosystem processes that allow fire to play its natural role in the ecosystem, both as wildland fire and prescribed fire, to the maximum extent possible.** The natural interactions between fire and the environment should influence the type, abundance, and distribution of plants and animals in the park. A primary goal of the fire management plan is to restore or maintain natural fire regimes so that ecosystems can function without human interference, while also reducing the risk of large, unwanted wildfires..
3. **Reduce the risk of wildland fire to communities and developed areas in the wildland/urban interface.** The goal in these areas is to use fire management treatments to reduce the risk of unwanted wildland fire while restoring plant community structure.
4. **Fire management actions in proposed and potential wilderness areas will be managed for effective and consistent protection and restoration of wilderness values.**
5. **Aid in the preservation and/or restoration of key natural resources, such as special status wildlife and plant species habitats and riparian areas.**
6. **Aid in the preservation of cultural resources.** This goal recognizes that archeological sites, historic districts, historic structures, cultural landscapes and ethnographic resources are more at risk when heavy fuel loads burn than when frequent fires burn in light fuel accumulations.
7. **Use adaptive management to effectively incorporate scientific knowledge and monitoring results into fire management and policy.** Adaptive management is a concept for addressing uncertainty in environmental management. Management plans designed with built-in continuous assessment and processes for improvement allow for adjustments during project implementation based upon new findings.

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3

8. Incorporate the social aspects of project management into the fire program, including such things as smoke management, visibility, and visitor experience.

9. Promote education, information and collaboration on the fire education and operation program with adjacent landowners, stakeholders, and the public.

10. Manage wildland fires to reduce smoke impacts on human health and visibility. Management options can include non-burning alternatives to fire, timing fires to take advantage of good smoke dispersal, and limiting the fuels available to fires.

Under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, The National Park Service is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as an essential part of this revision. This EIS will provide a comprehensive analysis of the impacts of various fire management alternatives to park resources.

Planning Process

There are typically three broad phases to producing a plan like this, with each phase consisting of various steps. During Phase One the planning team sets goals, identifies issues and collects data related to these issues. Phase Two efforts focus on defining alternative means for achieving goals and resolving issues. Phase Three consists of identifying a preferred alternative. Key public involvement steps occur during Phases One and Two. We are currently in Phase One where public input is gathered through written comment, electronic outreach and public meetings. During Phase Two the public will be invited to comment on a draft EIS.

We have scheduled a series of public open houses that will be held this fall in Phoenix, Flagstaff, Kanab, and Grand Canyon. Dates and locations for these workshops are as follows:

Kanab, Utah: Wednesday, October 15, 2003. The meeting will be held from 4 pm to 7 pm at the Holiday Inn Express at 815 East Highway 89 in Kanab.

Page, Arizona: Monday, October 20, 2003: The meeting will be held from 4 pm to 7 pm at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, 691 Scenic View Drive.

Grand Canyon, Arizona: Tuesday October 21, 2003. The meeting will be held from 4 pm to 8 pm in the Community Building in Grand Canyon National Park.

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Phoenix, Arizona: Wednesday, October 22, 2003. The meeting will be held from 4 pm to 7 pm at Fire Station Number 30, 2701 W. Belmont (1 block south of Northern).

Flagstaff, Arizona: Thursday, October 23, 2003. The meeting will be held from 4:15 pm to 7:30 pm at the Flagstaff Public Library, 300 West Aspen.

We encourage you and any of your staff to attend any one of these meetings. As you know, Grand Canyon National Park is a federally mandated Class I area under the Clean Air Act amendments of 1977. The NPS has just begun to identify preliminary issues related to fire management as one of the key building blocks of this planning effort, and protection of human health, visibility and other air quality related values are among them. Additional issues may be added to the analysis during the public scoping period. We view coordination with your office and staff as crucial to this planning process.

Carl Bowman, our Air Quality Specialist, is serving on the fire management plan interdisciplinary team. Please contact him at (928) 638-7817 if you have any questions or would like to schedule a meeting.

Thank you for your continued interest in the protection of air quality in Grand Canyon National Park.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Alston
Superintendent

cc:
LJ Beshears (GRCA-8213)
C Bowman (GRCA-8213)

FNP:DLutch:dn:9/26/03finalfmpscopingadeqcomplete.doc
FC:tg:9/29/03

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**2003 Scoping Letter Comment Form
Mailing List Press Release**

SEP 30 2003

DLutch
DNemeth
TGabaldon
DOltrogge
CGriffith
CPergiel
LPowell
JAlston

Y15 (GRCA 8227)

Mr. Ron Sieg, Regional Supervisor
Arizona Game and Fish Department
3500 South Lake Mary Road
Flagstaff, Arizona 86001

Dear Mr. Sieg:

Grand Canyon National Park has initiated the process to update the existing Fire Management Plan. This plan, prepared in 1992, revised in 1995, and amended in 1998, needs to be revised. The National Park Service is now beginning the preparation of a new fire management plan that incorporates the latest science and the most recent federal fire policy to guide the fire management program at Grand Canyon National Park.

Purpose and Need for Action

National Park Service Director's Order 18 states that "Each park with vegetation capable of burning will prepare a fire management plan to guide a fire management program that is responsive to the Park's natural and cultural resource objectives and to safety considerations for park visitors, employees, and developed facilities." When completed, the Grand Canyon Fire National Park Management Plan will describe a detailed program of actions to carry out fire management policies and objectives at Grand Canyon National Park. The plan is needed in order to fully recognize the importance of fire management in promoting ecosystem sustainability; to prescribe methods to protect communities, developed areas, cultural resources and key wildlife habitat from unwanted, high-intensity wildland fires; to form the basis for short- and long-term project planning and scheduling; to form the basis for communication, coordination and project planning with regulatory and partner agencies; to provide a framework for managing fire in wilderness areas for wilderness resource goals and to minimize impacts to visitors in these areas; and because periodic maintenance of helispots and roads is necessary for the implementation of the Fire Management Plan.

The goals of the plan have their foundations in the Park's planning documents, including the General Management Plan (1995), Resources Management Plan (1997) and Backcountry Management Plan (1988) as well as in NPS and federal legislation and fire policy; The National Park Service Organic Act; and the legislation establishing Grand Canyon National Park. The fire management plan interdisciplinary team has been working on the development of goals and objectives of the plan. Preliminary goals of the fire management plan are listed below. These are

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just that, preliminary, and may be revised as we work through the planning process. Issues or concerns you may have related to these preliminary goals are welcome.

1. **Ensure human life, health and safety.** The protection of firefighters and the public is the first priority in every fire management activity and during all phases of the fire management program.
2. **Identify and implement methods to restore and maintain park ecosystems and ecosystem processes that allow fire to play its natural role in the ecosystem, both as wildland fire and prescribed fire, to the maximum extent possible.** The natural interactions between fire and the environment should influence the type, abundance, and distribution of plants and animals in the park. A primary goal of the fire management plan is to restore or maintain natural fire regimes so that ecosystems can function without human interference, while also reducing the risk of large, unwanted wildfires..
3. **Reduce the risk of wildland fire to communities and developed areas in the wildland/urban interface.** The goal in these areas is to use fire management treatments to reduce the risk of unwanted wildland fire while restoring plant community structure.
4. **Fire management actions in proposed and potential wilderness areas will be managed for effective and consistent protection and restoration of wilderness values.**
5. **Aid in the preservation and/or restoration of key natural resources, such as special status wildlife and plant species habitats and riparian areas.**
6. **Aid in the preservation of cultural resources.** This goal recognizes that archeological sites, historic districts, historic structures, cultural landscapes and ethnographic resources are more at risk when heavy fuel loads burn than when frequent fires burn in light fuel accumulations.
7. **Use adaptive management to effectively incorporate scientific knowledge and monitoring results into fire management and policy.** Adaptive management is a concept for addressing uncertainty in environmental management. Management plans designed with built-in continuous assessment and processes for improvement allow for adjustments during project implementation based upon new findings.
8. **Incorporate the social aspects of project management into the fire program, including such things as smoke management, visibility, and visitor experience.**
9. **Promote education, information and collaboration on the fire education and operation program with adjacent landowners, stakeholders, and the public.**
10. **Manage wildland fires to reduce smoke impacts on human health and visibility.** Management options can include non-burning alternatives to fire, timing fires to take advantage of good smoke dispersal, and limiting the fuels available to fires.

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Under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, The National Park Service is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as an essential part of this revision. This EIS will provide a comprehensive analysis of the impacts of various fire management alternatives to park resources.

Planning Process

There are typically three broad phases to producing a plan like this, with each phase consisting of various steps. During Phase One the planning team sets goals, identifies issues and collects data related to these issues. Phase Two efforts focus on defining alternative means for achieving goals and resolving issues. Phase Three consists of identifying a preferred alternative. Key public involvement steps occur during Phases One and Two. We are currently in Phase One where public input is gathered through written comment, electronic outreach and public meetings. During Phase Two the public will be invited to comment on a draft EIS.

We have scheduled a series of public open houses that will be held this fall in Phoenix, Flagstaff, Kanab, and Grand Canyon. Dates and locations for these workshops are as follows:

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Grand Canyon, Arizona: Tuesday October 21, 2003. The meeting will be held from 4 pm to 8 pm in the Community Building in Grand Canyon National Park.

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Flagstaff, Arizona: Thursday, October 23, 2003. The meeting will be held from 4:15 pm to 7:30 pm at the Flagstaff Public Library, 300 West Aspen.

We encourage you and any of your staff to attend any one of these meetings. As you know Grand Canyon National Park has several federally listed species residing within or near park boundaries that will need to be addressed through this planning process. The NPS has just begun to identify preliminary issues related to fire management as one of the key building blocks of this planning effort, and protection of federally listed species, species of concern and key wildlife habitat is one of them. Additional issues may be added to the analysis during the public scoping period.

In the spirit of early coordination, we would like to initiate consultation with your office on the development of the fire management plan. We would like to meet with you and/or discuss with you over the phone any additional information, concerns or comments that should be taken into consideration as we develop the EIS and the plan. We view coordination with your office and staff as crucial to this planning process.

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Mailing List Press Release**

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Please contact R.V. Ward, Wildlife Program Manager at (928) 638-7756 or Tim Bowden, his alternate on the fire management plan interdisciplinary team at (928) 638-7617, to set up a convenient time to meet and/or discuss this planning effort.

Thank you for your continued interest in the management of wildlife and wildlife habitat in Grand Canyon National Park.

Sincerely,



Joseph F. Alston
Superintendent

Cc:

Bill Austin, USFWS Flagstaff Field Office, 323 N. Leroux, Flagstaff, Az. 86001
John Kennedy, Habitat Branch, AGFD Phoenix Office, 2221 W. Greenway Rd., Phoenix, Az. 85023
Mr. Rick Miller, AGFD Flagstaff Office, 3500 S. Lake Mary Road, Flagstaff, Az. 86001
LBBeshears (GRCA-8213)
RV Ward (GRCA-8213)

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2003 Scoping Letter Comment Form
Mailing List Press Release

DLutch
DNemeth
TGabaldon
DOltrogge
CGriffith
CPergiel
LPowell
JAlston

JFP 30 2009

Y15 (GRCA 8227)

Steve Spangle, Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Arizona Ecological Services
2321 West Royal Palm Road, #103
Phoenix, Arizona 85021

Dear Mr. Spangle:

Grand Canyon National Park has initiated the process to update the existing Fire Management Plan. This plan, prepared in 1992, revised in 1995, and amended in 1998, needs to be revised. The National Park Service is now beginning the preparation of a new fire management plan that incorporates the latest science and the most recent federal fire policy to guide the fire management program at Grand Canyon National Park.

Purpose and Need for Action

National Park Service Director's Order 18 states that "Each park with vegetation capable of burning will prepare a fire management plan to guide a fire management program that is responsive to the Park's natural and cultural resource objectives and to safety considerations for park visitors, employees, and developed facilities." When completed, the Grand Canyon Fire Management Plan will describe a detailed program of actions to carry out fire management policies and objectives at Grand Canyon National Park. The plan is needed in order to fully recognize the importance of fire management in promoting ecosystem sustainability; to prescribe methods to protect communities, developed areas, cultural resources and key wildlife habitat from unwanted, high-intensity wildland fires; to form the basis for short- and long-term project planning and scheduling; to form the basis for communication, coordination and project planning with regulatory and partner agencies; to provide a framework for managing fire in wilderness areas for wilderness resource goals and to minimize impacts to visitors in these areas; and because periodic maintenance of helispots and roads is necessary for the implementation of the Fire Management Plan.

National
Park

The goals of the plan have their foundations in the Park's planning documents, including the General Management Plan (1995), Resources Management Plan (1997) and Backcountry Management Plan (1988) as well as in NPS and federal legislation and fire policy; The National Park Service Organic Act; and the legislation establishing Grand Canyon National Park. The fire management plan interdisciplinary team has been working on the development of goals and

* Corrections made on letterhead

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objectives of the plan. Preliminary goals of the fire management plan are listed below. These are just that, preliminary, and may be revised as we work through the planning process. Issues or concerns you may have related to these preliminary goals are welcome.

1. **Ensure human life, health and safety.** The protection of firefighters and the public is the first priority in every fire management activity and during all phases of the fire management program.
2. **Identify and implement methods to restore and maintain park ecosystems and ecosystem processes that allow fire to play its natural role in the ecosystem, both as wildland fire and prescribed fire, to the maximum extent possible.** The natural interactions between fire and the environment should influence the type, abundance, and distribution of plants and animals in the park. A primary goal of the fire management plan is to restore or maintain natural fire regimes so that ecosystems can function without human interference, while also reducing the risk of large, unwanted wildfires..
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6. **Aid in the preservation of cultural resources.** This goal recognizes that archeological sites, historic districts, historic structures, cultural landscapes and ethnographic resources are more at risk when heavy fuel loads burn than when frequent fires burn in light fuel accumulations.
7. **Use adaptive management to effectively incorporate scientific knowledge and monitoring results into fire management and policy.** Adaptive management is a concept for addressing uncertainty in environmental management. Management plans designed with built-in continuous assessment and processes for improvement allow for adjustments during project implementation based upon new findings.
8. **Incorporate the social aspects of project management into the fire program, including such things as smoke management, visibility, and visitor experience.**
9. **Promote education, information and collaboration on the fire education and operation program with adjacent landowners, stakeholders, and the public.**

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10. Manage wildland fires to reduce smoke impacts on human health and visibility.

Management options can include non-burning alternatives to fire, timing fires to take advantage of good smoke dispersal, and limiting the fuels available to fires.

Under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, The National Park Service is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as an essential part of this revision. This EIS will provide a comprehensive analysis of the impacts of various fire management alternatives to park resources.

Planning Process

There are typically three broad phases to producing a plan like this, with each phase consisting of various steps. During Phase One the planning team sets goals, identifies issues and collects data related to these issues. Phase Two efforts focus on defining alternative means for achieving goals and resolving issues. Phase Three consists of identifying a preferred alternative. Key public involvement steps occur during Phases One and Two. We are currently in Phase One where public input is gathered through written comment, electronic outreach and public meetings. During Phase Two the public will be invited to comment on a draft EIS.

We have scheduled a series of public open houses that will be held this fall in Phoenix, Flagstaff, Kanab, and Grand Canyon. Dates and locations for these workshops are as follows:

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We encourage you and any of your staff to attend any one of these meetings. As you know Grand Canyon National Park has several federally listed species residing within or near park boundaries that will need to be addressed through this planning process. The NPS has just begun to identify preliminary issues related to fire management as one of the key building blocks of this planning effort, and protection of federally listed species and species of concern is one of them. Additional issues may be added to the analysis during the public scoping period.

In the spirit of early coordination, we would like to request a species list at this time and to initiate consultation with your office on the development of the fire management plan.

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We would like to meet with you and discuss any additional information, concerns or comments that should be taken into consideration as we develop the EIS and the plan. We view coordination with your office and staff as crucial to this planning process.

Please contact R.V. Ward, Wildlife Program Manager at (928) 638-7756 or Tim Bowden, his alternate on the fire management plan interdisciplinary team (IDT) at (928) 638-7617, to set up a convenient time to meet.

Thank you for your continued interest in the protection of federally listed species in Grand Canyon National Park.

Sincerely,



Joseph F. Alston
Superintendent

Cc:

Bill Austin, USFWS Flagstaff Suboffice, 323 North Leroux, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

J Beshears (GRCA-8213)

RV Ward (GRCA-8213)

FNP:DLutch:dn:9/26/03:finalfmpscopingfwscomplete.doc

FC:tg:9/29/03

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2003 Scoping Letter Comment Form
Mailing List Press Release



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon
National Park
Management Assistant

PO Box 129
Grand Canyon, Arizona
86023-0129 USA

928-638-7903 phone
928-638-7815 fax

Grand Canyon National Park Fax

To:

Fax number:

From:

Date:

Pages to follow:

Comments:

In accordance with National Park Service (NPS) policy and other park management plans, **the NPS will begin work on a revision of the Grand Canyon National Park Fire Management Plan this summer with completion expected in September 2004.** This plan will address fire suppression, management of beneficial natural fire, wildland-urban interface, protection of cultural and natural resources, and air quality issues related to fire.

An Environmental Impact Statement will be completed by an NPS contractor to evaluate impacts of management alternatives, and to facilitate public involvement. The contract has been advertised and an award is expected soon.

This summer/fall the contractor and NPS will hold public scoping meetings in up to five regional cities to facilitate public input. We will notify your office of these meetings and other updates on revision of the Fire Management Plan for Grand Canyon National Park.

Please call me if you have questions – 928/638-7903.

Mallory Smith
Management Assistant to the Superintendent
Grand Canyon National Park

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage

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2003 Scoping Letter Comment Form
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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon
National Park
Management Assistant

PO Box 129
Grand Canyon, Arizona
86023-0129 USA

928-638-7903 phone
928-638-7815 fax

Grand Canyon National Park Fax

To: *Sen. Dier Office of Congressman Rick Renzi*

Fax number:

From: *Mallory Smith, Grand Canyon NP*

Date: *7/7/03*

Pages to follow: *0*

Comments:

In accordance with National Park Service (NPS) policy and other park management plans, **the NPS will begin work on a revision of the Grand Canyon National Park Fire Management Plan this summer with completion expected in September 2004.** This plan will address fire suppression, management of beneficial natural fire, wildland-urban interface, protection of cultural and natural resources, and air quality issues related to fire.

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Mallory Smith
Management Assistant to the Superintendent
Grand Canyon National Park

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Mailing List Press Release



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon
National Park
Management Assistant

PO Box 129
Grand Canyon, Arizona
86023-0129 USA

928-638-7903 phone
928-638-7815 fax

Grand Canyon National Park Fax

To: *Shari Farrington, Office of Congressman Dent*
Fax number: *623-776-7832*
From: *Mallory Smith-Grand Canyon NP*
Date: *7/7/03*
Pages to follow: *0*

Comments:

In accordance with National Park Service (NPS) policy and other park management plans, **the NPS will begin work on a revision of the Grand Canyon National Park Fire Management Plan this summer with completion expected in September 2004.** This plan will address fire suppression, management of beneficial natural fire, wildland-urban interface, protection of cultural and natural resources, and air quality issues related to fire.

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Mallory Smith
Management Assistant to the Superintendent
Grand Canyon National Park

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Mailing List Press Release



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon
National Park
Management Assistant

PO Box 129
Grand Canyon, Arizona
86023-0129 USA

928-638-7903 phone
928-638-7815 fax

Grand Canyon National Park Fax

To: *Nick Matrella, Office of Senator John McCain*

Fax number:

From: *Mallory Smith, Grand Canyon NP*

Date: *7/7/03*

Pages to follow: *0*

Comments:

In accordance with National Park Service (NPS) policy and other park management plans, **the NPS will begin work on a revision of the Grand Canyon National Park Fire Management Plan this summer with completion expected in September 2004.** This plan will address fire suppression, management of beneficial natural fire, wildland-urban interface, protection of cultural and natural resources, and air quality issues related to fire.

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Please call me if you have questions – 928/638-7903.

Mallory Smith
Management Assistant to the Superintendent
Grand Canyon National Park

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2003 Scoping Letter Comment Form
Mailing List Press Release



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon
National Park
Management Assistant

PO Box 129
Grand Canyon, Arizona
86023-0129 USA

928-638-7903 phone
928-638-7815 fax

Grand Canyon National Park Fax

To: *Dejane Karpach, Office of Senator JIM Kyl*

Fax number:

From: *Mallory Smith, Grand Canyon NP*

Date: *7/7/03*

Pages to follow: *D*

Comments:

In accordance with National Park Service (NPS) policy and other park management plans, **the NPS will begin work on a revision of the Grand Canyon National Park Fire Management Plan this summer with completion expected in September 2004.** This plan will address fire suppression, management of beneficial natural fire, wildland-urban interface, protection of cultural and natural resources, and air quality issues related to fire.

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Mallory Smith
Management Assistant to the Superintendent
Grand Canyon National Park

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Grand Canyon National Park

Park Management Information

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fire Management Plan

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[home](#) > [documents](#) > [press release](#)

NEWS RELEASE

October 6, 2003
Donna Nemeth 928-638-7944

Public Scoping Process Begins For Grand Canyon's Fire Management Plan

Grand Canyon National Park has initiated the process to update the existing Fire Management Plan (FMP). This plan, prepared in 1992, revised in 1993, 1994, 1995, 1998, and 2003, needs to be updated. The National Park Service (NPS) is now beginning preparation of a new FMP that incorporates the latest science and the most recent federal fire policy to guide the fire management program at Grand Canyon National Park. When completed, the FMP will describe a detailed program of actions to safely carry out fire management policies and objectives at Grand Canyon National Park.

The plan is needed:

- to fully recognize the importance of fire management in promoting ecosystem sustainability;
- to prescribe methods to protect communities, developed areas, cultural resources and key wildlife habitat from unwanted, high-intensity wildland fires;
- to form the basis for short- and long-term project planning and scheduling;
- to form the basis for communication, coordination and project planning with regulatory and partner agencies;
- to provide a framework for managing fire in wilderness areas for wilderness resource goals and to minimize impacts to visitors in these areas; and
- because periodic maintenance of helispots and roads are necessary for the implementation of the FMP.

There are typically three broad phases to producing a plan like this, with each phase consisting of various steps. During Phase One, the planning team sets program objectives, identifies issues and collects data related to these issues. Phase Two efforts focus on defining alternative means for achieving goals and resolving issues. Phase Three consists of identifying a preferred alternative. Key public involvement steps occur during Phases One and Two. NPS is currently in Phase One where public input is gathered through written comment, electronic outreach and public meetings. Public participation is very important to this process.

How You Can Be Involved

1) Write: Comments may be submitted in writing to National Park Service, Grand Canyon National Park, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023-0129 or by e-mail to grca_fmp@nps.gov. (If submitting comments electronically, please send as a text file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Also, please include your name, e-mail address, and mailing address in your message.)

2) Attend Public Scoping Meetings: A series of public open houses will be held this fall in Phoenix, Flagstaff, Kanab, Page, and Grand Canyon. Dates and locations for these open houses are as follows:

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- Kanab, Utah: Wednesday, October 15, 2003. The meeting will be held from 4 pm to 7 pm at the Holiday Inn Express at 815 East Highway 89 in Kanab.
- Page, Arizona: Monday, October 20, 2003. The meeting will be held from 4 pm to 7 pm at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, 691 Scenic View Drive.
- Grand Canyon, Arizona: Tuesday October 21, 2003. The meeting will be held from 4 pm to 8 pm in the Community Building in Grand Canyon National Park.
- Phoenix, Arizona: Wednesday, October 22, 2003. The meeting will be held from 4 pm to 7 pm at Fire Station Number 30, 2701 W. Belmont (1 block south of Northern).
- Flagstaff, Arizona: Thursday, October 23, 2003. The meeting will be held from 4:15 pm to 7:30 pm at the Flagstaff Public Library, 300 West Aspen.

3) Stay Informed: Visit www.nps.gov/grca/fire/plan/ to keep apprised of the planning process and to submit comments during the public comment periods. It is the goal of the National Park Service to post all future information and documents related to the FMP on this website.

Your involvement in this process is greatly appreciated! If you have any specific questions regarding the fire management planning process, please call Dan Oltrogge, Fire Management Officer, at 928-638-7822.

Fire Management Plan, Park Management, Grand Canyon National Park
Last updated: 08-Oct-2003
<http://www.nps.gov/grca/fire/plan/documents/press/6oct03.htm>

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2003 Public Meeting

Grand Canyon

National Park Service
US Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park
Arizona



Fire Management Plan Cultural Resource Management

What are Cultural Resources?

- Archeological Resources
- Cultural Landscapes
- Historic Structures
- Museum Objects
- Ethnographic Resources



The Grand Canyon is of cultural importance to the Hualapai, Havasupai, Hopi, Kaibab Paiute, Navajo, San Juan Southern Paiute, Shivwits Paiute, White Mountain Apache, and Zuni Indian peoples.

Fire Management Activities Can Aid in the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Resources

- Mechanical thinning reduces fuel around prehistoric and historic structures.
- Low intensity fires and mechanical thinning can safely reduce fuel loads on archeological sites.
- Fire management tools and techniques can be used to restore and maintain cultural landscapes.
- Fires can help maintain ecosystem processes in Native American traditional use areas.



"As custodian of the national park system, the NPS is steward of many of America's most important natural and cultural resources. It is charged to preserve them unimpaired for the enjoyment of present and future generations. If they are degraded or lost, so is the parks' reason for being."

NPS Director's Order 28



Threats to Cultural Resources from Wildland Fire

- Destruction of wooden buildings or features.
- Damage to rock art from contact with high heat.
- Damage to stone structures and features from contact with high heat.
- Destruction of fragile artifacts.



Threats to Cultural Resources from Fire Management Activities

- Unintentional disturbance of archeological resources by firelines, camps, helispots, etc.
- Unintentional disturbance of American Indian sacred places and traditional use areas.
- Intentional vandalism of sites and theft of artifacts.



Ongoing Management of Cultural Resources for Fire Management Activities

- Archeological site inventory and documentation prior to prescribed fires.
- Post-fire assessments of sensitive sites and treatment of sites impacted by fire.
- Fuel reduction around historic structures.
- Protection of fire-sensitive sites.
- Archeologist assigned to wildland fires.
- Consultation (tribal & state).



Grand Canyon

National Park Service
US Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park
Arizona



Fire Management Plan Fire Ecology



FIRE ECOLOGY at GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

Grand Canyon National Park contains a great diversity of vegetation types, ranging from desert scrub at the lowest elevations, up through grassland, pinyon-juniper woodland, and ponderosa pine forest, to spruce-fir forest at the highest elevations.

All of these ecosystems are affected by fire to some extent, and it is our goal to restore the natural role of fire wherever possible. Fire plays a larger role in the ecology of some ecosystems than others; it is especially important in the ponderosa pine forests which cover approximately 50,500 acres of the park.

The new fire management plan will address the occurrence of fire in all of these ecosystems, and in many of them, fire will be the primary management tool for ecosystem restoration. Because of this, fire management has the potential to affect a wide range of natural resource management issues and other concerns.

REFERENCE CONDITIONS

The conditions that existed in Grand Canyon's many ecosystems prior to Euro-American influences (circa 1880) are important reference points for resource management.

While there is little information available for some ecosystems, there is more about others. Several sets of data, collected both recently and in the past, exist for the forested ecosystems in the park. Natural resource managers recently used this information to assess how the park's forests have changed from past conditions.

This information will be useful in establishing and refining management goals and objectives for the fire program.



The photo above was taken on the North Rim in 1930; it illustrates the dense forest structure thought to be more common in the past. Historical photos like this one can be helpful in describing reference conditions.

FIRE HISTORY

This fire history map is a useful tool in helping managers understand the patterns of fire across the landscape of the park.

The map to the right displays those fires on the North Rim from 1980-2003 that were larger than 100 acres.

The number of fires in 2003 has been typical. Historically, all of these would have been suppressed, but now fire managers seek to strike a balance between suppressing unwanted wildland fires and allowing some fires to burn for resource benefits.

Fire History (1789-2003) - North Rim - Grand Canyon National Park



ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

It is widely agreed that decades of fire suppression, as well as other human activities such as grazing and logging, have greatly altered our region's ponderosa pine forests. The absence of frequent fire has led to unusually high fuel loads and a greatly increased density of smaller trees. These conditions have set the stage for the large, intense wildfires that are becoming increasingly common in the southwest.

While the need to restore more sustainable conditions is clear, opinions differ as to how best to accomplish this. One of the major challenges is achieving a balance between effectively removing dead fuels and dense smaller trees, while simultaneously preserving the largest older trees.

The new fire management plan will be an important component in the park's approach to this issue.



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US Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park
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Fire Management Plan Fire Management Program

National Park Service Wildland Fire Management Program Goals

"The goals of the NPS wildland fire management program are to:

1. Conduct a vigorous and safe wildland fire management program with the highest professional and technological standards.
2. Identify the type of wildland fire that is most appropriate to specific situations and areas.
3. Efficiently accomplish resource management objectives through the application and management of prescribed and wildland fires.
4. Continually evaluate the wildland fire program operations and accomplishments to better meet program goals by refining treatment and monitoring methods, and by integrating applicable technical and scientific advancements."

— Wildland Fire Management Reference Manual #18

This manual is issued by the Associate Director, Park Operations and Education, and provides details and guidance of all information presented in the NPS Director's Order 18.



Fire Classifications



- **Prescribed Fire:** Any fire ignited by fire managers to meet specific objectives. A prescribed fire plan must be written and approved, and NEPA requirements must be met prior to ignition.
- **Wildland Fire:** Any non-structure fire, other than prescribed fire, occurring in the wildland.
- **Wildland Fire Suppression:** An appropriate management response to a wildland fire that curtails fire spread and eliminates identified threats from the fire. All fires that threaten lives or values at risk are suppressed.
- **Wildland Fire Use:** The management of naturally ignited wildland fires to accomplish pre-established resource management objectives in pre-defined geographic areas. These areas are outlined in Fire Management Plans.
- **Fire Use:** The combination of wildland fire use and prescribed fire application to meet resource objectives.

"Wildland fire use is a desirable method to maintain fire-dependent ecosystems. In other areas where fire is an essential component of the ecosystem but cannot be allowed to burn as a natural process because of management constraints, prescribed fire is used to maintain the influence of natural fire or to restore the fuel characteristics to a condition more compatible with the eventual reintroduction of wildland fire."

— Wildland Fire Management Reference Manual #18



The Swamp Wildland Fire Use Incident, 2001



Suppression action on a North Rim fire

Fire at Grand Canyon National Park

A prescribed fire at Grand Canyon is a planned ignition designed to contribute specifically to the park's resource management objectives. A prescribed fire plan is written by resource managers and recommended by the Deputy Superintendent, the Chief Ranger, and the Science Center Director. The plan is then approved by the Park Superintendent.



A wildland fire at Grand Canyon is managed as directed by the park's fire management plan and after an analysis of the specific situation. Considerations include values to be protected, management objectives, and external concerns. Management options range from monitoring the fire with little action taken on the ground, to full suppression on the entire fire perimeter.

Accomplishing NPS Fire Management Goals at Grand Canyon NP Fire managers and staff at Grand Canyon National Park will:

- Protect life and property while providing for public and firefighter safety
- Protect public health and environmental quality as mandated by state and federal law
- Plan for fire prevention, suppression, wildland/urban interface protection, wildland fire use, and prescribed fire
- Coordinate with resource managers to consider the best available scientific data
- Maintain an adequate workforce and organization
- Continue to communicate, educate, and cooperate with the public and other agencies
- Continually evaluate and refine the fire management program and fire operations



For more information...

The Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy that governs wildland fire management can be found on this website:
www.fedwildfirepolicy.com

The NPS Reference Manual #18, Wildland Fire Management, can be found on this website:
<http://www.nps.gov/pam/management/18/>

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) has developed a flowchart illustrating the framework for federal agencies' management of all wildland fires. It can be found on this website:

http://www.nwccg.com/management/management_flowchart.html



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Fire Management Plan Fire Monitoring

FIRE MONITORING AT GRAND CANYON

Monitoring our fire management activities is important to the success of our fire program.



Why do we monitor?

- to document basic information about our fire management activities
- to detect trends in fire effects
- to ensure that fire and resource management objectives are being met
- to allow us to practice adaptive management (see right)

What do we monitor?

- fire behavior during prescribed fires and during wildland fire use
- local effects of fire on vegetation using permanently installed plots
- widespread effects of fire through burn severity analysis

Our monitoring program will be modified as needed to accommodate any new information needs prompted by the new fire management plan.

BURN SEVERITY ANALYSIS

The NPS uses satellite imagery to analyze burn severity for large fires.

This allows us to see which portions of a fire burned at low, moderate, or high intensity, and how those areas are distributed. Burn severity ratings are defined as follows:

Unburned: No evidence of fire.

Low: Little or no loss of or after the dominant vegetation. Small, unopened patches remain, and most foliage and range remain intact. Some small organic material on the ground was exposed or consumed.

Low-to-Moderate: Some foliage and tree limbs were scorched or consumed. Some woody material was exposed, but some overstory trees were intact. Some understory material was exposed.

Moderate-to-High: Fire scorched most of the foliage and the vegetation, and substantial loss. Limited green vegetation remains in overstory, but some overstory trees are exposed to survive. Some large logs and root snags were exposed.

High: Fire killed the above-ground parts of all vegetation, changing the forest structure substantially. At times, and the vegetation was consumed, as well as mid-range logs and other organic material on the ground.

This type of analysis is an excellent tool for helping us evaluate potential effects of fire on natural and cultural resources.

The example above is from the Vista Fire, which burned on the North Rim in 2001.

FIRE EFFECTS MONITORING PLOTS

In 1999, Grand Canyon began installing permanent plots to measure the short-term and long-term effects of fire on vegetation. We currently have over 130 such plots in place throughout the forested areas of the park. The plots are examined immediately before and after prescribed fires, and then are revisited 1, 2, and 5 years later. We collect data on trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, and fuel load, and use this information in the adaptive management process to assess ecological effects and develop improvements in future fire management practices.



The photos above document changes in a monitoring plot in ponderosa pine forest. From left to right, the photos show the plot immediately before a prescribed fire, one year after the fire, and two years after the fire.

What is Adaptive Management?

It's a management process in which we:



...which allows us to continuously refine and improve our fire management program.

MONITORING DURING FIRES

The firefighter shown in the background photo is collecting information on fire behavior, such as the height of the flames, and the rate of spread of the fire. This type of information is collected for both prescribed fire and wildland fire use, and helps fire managers determine if the fire is progressing in the way they expected.

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Fire Management Plan National Environmental Policy Act

What is NEPA?

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is the mandate of any federal agency or department for the protection of the environment. It sets as a goal for federal decision making a balance between use and preservation of natural and cultural resources. NEPA ensures that federal agencies act in good faith during federal undertakings.

Details of NEPA are found in
40 CFR 1500-1508.

How Does NEPA Relate to the FMP?

- The Fire Management Plan (FMP) is a planning document that will address the management of fire within Grand Canyon National Park.
- The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a detailed environmental document that analyzes the impacts of various management alternatives associated with the planning document.
- The EIS will help the National Park Service determine the preferred management alternative and this alternative will provide the basis for updating/revising the FMP.

How to Comment on the FMP/EIS

• Mail comments to:

*Fire Management Plan
Grand Canyon National Park
PO Box 129
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023*

• Email comments to:

grca_fmp@nps.gov

All email should be sent as text files with no special characters or encryption. Please include your name, email address, and mailing address with all comments.

• Comment forms may be completed and left at scoping meetings or mailed in later.

• Comments may be hand delivered to Grand Canyon National Park HQ.

NEPA and You

When a federal action is planned, interested public and affected agencies are provided the opportunity to provide input, identify issues, and offer solutions prior to the preparation of the final NEPA document.

This is accomplished through:

- Public Scoping
- Public Review of and Comment on Draft Environmental Impact Statements



Timeline for EIS and FMP

Notice of Intent (NOI) to Public	Sept 16, 2003
Public Scoping / Involvement	Fall 2003
Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to Public	Spring 2004
Public Review and Comment of DEIS	Spring/Summer 2004
Record of Decision (ROD) to Public	Fall 2004
GRCA Fire Management Plan Completed	Sept 30, 2004 (target)

Public Involvement

How long is the public scoping process?

The scoping process includes an initial inventory of interested public and affected agencies. This process can last 60 or more days for an Environmental Impact Statement.

How long does formal public review /comment of the Draft Environmental Document last?

Formal public review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement must last for a minimum of 60 days.



Steps in Developing an Environmental Impact Statement

1. Identify the need for action.
2. Identify goals and objectives in taking action.
3. Identify the proposal.
4. Identify issues or problems that need to be addressed to reach goals and objectives using an interdisciplinary approach.
5. Resolve these issues by creating reasonable alternatives that mitigate problems.
6. Identify information gaps and needs and gather needed data to describe affected environment and predict impacts.
7. Identify the impacts of each alternative on those environmental resources identified as impact topics.

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Fire Management Plan Natural Resources – Wildlife and Water Quality

The National Park Service will strive to understand, maintain, restore, and protect the inherent integrity of the natural resources, processes, systems, and values of the parks. NPS Management Policies (2001)

With Euro-American settlement came intensive livestock grazing, fire suppression, and habitat fragmentation. Reintroducing fire into the resulting changed ecosystems will require careful planning to minimizing impacts to wildlife.



With five major life zones spanning 1.2 million acres, Grand Canyon National Park is home to numerous rare, endemic, and specially protected species.



Kaibab squirrel



Sentry milk-vetch



Mexican spotted owl



Flannelmouth sucker



Northern goshawk

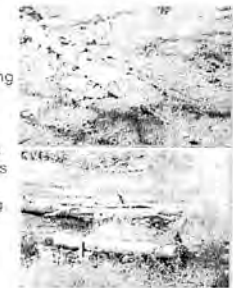


California condor

Some Examples of Post Fire Treatment

Post fire treatment to slow the erosion process is often necessary to minimize adverse effects on water quality, habitat and infrastructure.

Placing logs along the contour of slopes and installing temporary check dams in channels can reduce sediment loading.



Conservation Measures

- Developing vegetation objectives to be met through fire program to improve wildlife habitat
- Raking forest litter away from nest trees and snags to preserve these important habitat components
- Covering portable water tanks lessens attractiveness to California condors and insures they do not become trapped
- Designing fire prescriptions to preserve old growth



Concerns That Can Be Minimized or Prevented Through Appropriate Fire Management:

- Loss of wildlife habitat through unwanted wildland fire
- Direct wildlife disturbance and mortality
- Introduction and spread of exotic plant species
- Loss of productive soil through overheating (sterilization) and erosion
- Excessive erosion and degradation of water quality



Monitoring Recovery

Erosion pins (right) document amount of soil eroded both locally and on a watershed scale.



Repeat photography documents the rate and magnitude of both physical and biological processes as well as the progress and character of ecological recovery.



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Fire Management Plan Smoke Management

Issues

- Many forests in Grand Canyon National Park depend on fire, so restoring fire to its natural role is imperative.
- Wildland fires can, and do, produce unacceptable air quality impacts.
- Air quality in the Park is regulated by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, under the federal Clean Air Act.
- As a Class I airshed, Grand Canyon N.P. receives the most stringent protection against increases in air pollution.
- Although wood smoke is mostly water vapor, it contains many pollutants, including carbon monoxide, various organic compounds and fine particles.
- Dangerous exposures to carbon monoxide may occur in continuous, close proximity to the fire line itself.
- Park staff concentrates overall smoke management efforts on fine particles and their impacts.
- There are two categories of smoke impacts: human health and visibility.



Human Health

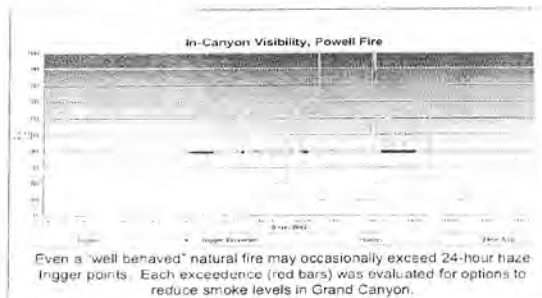
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets standards to protect human health from fine particles (PM_{2.5}), including those in smoke.
- The National Park Service uses portable monitors to assess PM_{2.5} concentrations during large fires.
- No violations of EPA standards in the Park have been recorded during wildland fires.
- Actual fire management goals are set well below the EPA standards to allow a margin of safety for visitors and residents.
- Press releases are issued to advise visitors and residents of heavy smoke even if PM_{2.5} levels do not exceed EPA's thresholds.



A portable fine particle monitor

Visibility

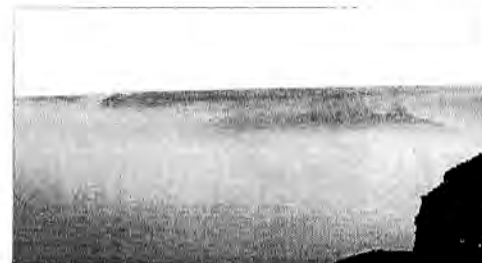
- Visibility is our ability to see through the air, and is influenced by lighting, weather, season, and air pollution.
- Most haze in Grand Canyon is the result of fine particles (PM_{2.5}).
- The National Park Service uses a transmissometer to measure haze levels (including smoke) every hour.
- Some smoke in the Grand Canyon is an inevitable result of fire. Our goal is to minimize smoke's impacts.
- EPA's strategy to improve visibility is to "clean up" the haziest 20% of the time.
- If smoke causes 24-hour haze averages to stay in the haziest 20% all day, fire managers evaluate and take action to reduce smoke levels.



This transmissometer receiver measures light projected from the floor of Grand Canyon.

Management Constraints

- Although fires can be managed to some degree, their behavior is inherently unpredictable.
- Air quality monitoring provides specific data, but only at the equipment's location and at the measurement time. These data must be combined with "real world" observations and predictions to guide fire management.
- Not all air quality monitoring equipment is available or suitable for all fires.
- Smoke from unwanted wildland fires can not be managed, and tend to produce more smoke than managed fires.
- Prescribed fire allows managers to manage smoke impacts by manipulating:
 - Smoke production through fuel loads, acreage burned, fire intensity
 - Smoke dispersion through ignition timing, predicted weather conditions
- The State of Arizona issues burning permits under Article 15, Range and Forest Burning (AAC R18-2-15). Smoke management requirements are derived from the Clean Air Act, as reflected in the:
 - Regional Haze Rule,
 - EPA Interim Air Quality Policy on Wildland and Prescribed Fires,
 - Western Regional Air Partnership Policies on Fire Tracking Systems, Enhanced Smoke Management Programs for Visibility, and Annual Emission Goals for Fire.



The goal of an effective smoke management program is to avoid unacceptable smoke impacts to Grand Canyon, and return smoke levels to the natural levels found in a healthy, functioning ecosystem.

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Fire Management Plan Wildland/Urban Interface



What is Wildland/Urban Interface?

The term Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI) is used to describe any area where potentially dangerous combustible wildland fuels are found adjacent to combustible homes, other structures, or transportation corridors.



Aerial view of the South Rim of the Grand Canyon showing wildland fuels adjacent to developed areas. A fuel break created by fire crews to protect the community can be seen in the lower left area of the photo.

Reducing Fire Threats to WUIs What is Defensible Space?

Defensible space refers to the area between a house and the surrounding forest, where vegetation has been modified to reduce a fire's threat. Defensible space also provides an area for firefighters to defend the house.

Defensible space can be created by....



Clearing trees and brush 30' or more from the structure



Removing lower limbs and brush that can serve as ladders to carry fire into tree tops



Thinning trees and other wildland fuels



Establishing breaks in continuous fuels

Illustrations from www.fs.fed.us

Grand Canyon Communities at Risk

The Park's South Rim Village, North Rim developed area, and Desert View communities are all identified as at risk from the threat of wildland fires in the Federal Register, Volume 66, #160, dated August 17, 2001.



Several projects are planned to mitigate the potential wildland fire hazard in these areas.



A low-intensity prescribed fire on the South Rim helps to reduce fuels, thereby lessening the threat of unwanted wildland fire in the developed area.



Brush piles in the North Rim developed area from the on-going Bright Angel thinning project. Excess fuels are removed from developed areas, piled, and burned when conditions are favorable.

At Grand Canyon National Park, several methods are approved under the current Fire Management Plan for reducing threats to the wildland/urban interface from wildland fire. These include thinning trees around developed areas, creating breaks in the wildland fuels adjacent to structures, prescribed burning, or a combination of these strategies.



Fall 2002 burning of brush piles created during the Bright Angel thinning project.

As communities and urban developments continue to expand around Grand Canyon National Park, fire and fuels management within the wildland/urban interface is becoming a critical component of the fire management plan.

Are YOU Firewise?

Firewise is a program sponsored by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). Members of the NWCG, including the Department of Interior, are responsible for wildland fire management in the United States. NWCG's Wildland/Urban Interface Working Team directs the Firewise program.



Firewise (www.firewise.gov) offers educational information for people who live or vacation in fire prone areas of the United States.

Here you can find tips on making your home safer from wildland fire, newsletters, and information on educational workshops.

Arizona Firewise (<http://www.firewise-arizona.org>) offers Arizona-specific Firewise information. The above photograph is from this website and illustrates a home considered Firewise.