

**Glen Canyon National Recreation Area  
NEPA Committee  
Internal Scoping on Glen Canyon Rim Trail  
July 8, 2008**

The National Park Service (NPS) is preparing an environmental assessment to evaluate the impacts of a proposed 7.5 mile, non- motorized recreational trail along the rim of Glen Canyon in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area near Page, AZ. Internal scoping meetings of NPS staff have been held to identify and determine what topics, issues, and concerns need to be analyzed. These internal project reviews by Glen Canyon's NEPA Committee help to ensure that the environmental assessment is accurate and complete, and meets the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

The following is the Rim Trail presentation by the Recreation Planner to the NEPA Committee on July 8, 2008, along with the discussion that followed.

### **Project Proposal**

See Map. Construct a pedestrian/bicycle trail to connect Horseshoe Bend with the City of Page's existing Rimview Trail. Trail would travel across city and federally owned lands along the corridor between the rim of Glen Canyon and Highway 89. The trail would be approximately 7.5 miles in length.

The trail is proposed as approximately 5- feet in width. Trail construction will be across natural landscapes and will use native materials. Areas of slickrock/sandstone will be milled to provide a smooth(er) surface and to make the trail corridor visible. Areas of loose soils/sands will be hardened with an environmentally friendly product that bonds soil particles to minimize erosion.

The trail at Horseshoe Bend would be rerouted around the hill and made handicapped accessible (ADA compliant). The trail over the hill would be removed and rehabilitated.

Trail facilities include restrooms at Horseshoe Bend (and possibly one other location). Interpretive facilities would be constructed along the trail as appropriate. Other features may include bike racks, benches, wayside shelters, etc.

### **History**

A FONSI was signed December 5, 1995 for an environmental assessment supporting a similar hike- bike trail project, but the trail was never constructed.

The hike- bike project was resurrected during a November 2007 meeting between Glen Canyon NRA, the City of Page, and NPS Intermountain Region personnel.

A stakeholders working group under the auspices of the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program was formed in November 2007. Parties include NPS representatives, city personnel, an ADOT representative, and other private interests. The group meets quarterly, or

as needed. There have been 5 meetings to date. The group works to resolve issues of trail management, fundraising, environmental compliance, zoning, and other related issues.

## **Status**

Public scoping was conducted during late March and April 2008. 5 comments were received. Currently, there are 2 alternatives: the proposed action, and a no action alternative. The proposed trail has been nominated to the Arizona State Trail System. If accepted, the trail will be eligible for state trail grants.

## **Impact Topics in the Environmental Assessment**

### **I.II Impact Topics Retained for Further Analysis**

- I.II.1 Soils and Topography
- I.II.2 Vegetation
- I.II.3 Visitor Use and Experience
- I.II.4 Soundscapes
- I.II.5 Air Quality
- I.II.6 Gateway Communities
- I.II.7 Park Operations
- I.II.8 Wildlife and Habitat
- I.II.9 Federally Listed Species
- I.II.10 Public Health and Safety
- I.II.11 Cultural Resources

### **I.I2 Impact Topics Dismissed from Further Analysis**

- I.I2.1 Energy Requirements and Conservation Potential
- I.I2.2 Natural or Depletable Resources
- I.I2.3 Floodplains or wetlands (mandatory topic; 40 CFR 1508.27)
- I.I2.4 Environmental Justice
- I.I2.5 Prime and Unique Agricultural Lands
- I.I2.6 Accommodation of Sacred Sites
- I.I2.7 Indian Trust Resources
- I.I2.8 Historic Structures
- I.I2.9 Cultural Landscapes
- I.I2.10 Museum Collections

## **Discussion**

### **Compliance Issues**

1. Trail from Horseshoe Bend Trailhead to Rim Trail needs to be ADA compliant. Determine requirements.
2. Fish and Wildlife Service needs information on Raptor surveys and presence/absence of Threatened & Endangered Spp and habitat.
3. Vegetation/Natural Resource Survey needs to be completed.
4. Re- do cultural inventory (e.g. artifacts) since corridor has changed from 1995 environmental assessment.

### Construction Techniques (Trail Crew Foreman)

1. 10% grade or 5% grade (need to research ADA standards)
2. Use aggregate and *DirtGlue* to bind sand particles together
  - a. Product retains native colors and appearance
  - b. Trail is easy to maintain (light maintenance every 2- 3 years)
  - c. Product is more economical than road oil
  - d. Product is environmentally friendly
3. Two obstacles to building the trail
  - a. Finding the funding
  - b. Mapping out the trail (will it run south or north of Horseshoe Hill?)
4. Trail Test strip
  - a. 5- foot wide strip for as far as 5 gal of *DirtGlue* will go
5. Width of Trail (5- ft)
  - a. Width is wide enough to allow access to quads, pugs, etc. in case of emergency and for maintenance.
  - b. *DirtGlue* only used for Horseshoe trailhead→Rim Trail
  - c. Remainder of trail will be mostly milled slickrock
  - d. **Concern:** need to keep in mind sandstone **fin**s are an important landscape feature
6. The International Mountain Bicycling Association has provided technical trail- layout assistance.

### Impact Topics

1. Soundscapes (during construction) may be dismissed
2. Air Quality (during construction) may be dismissed

### General Issues

1. Parking/Trail Head Development
  - a. Need to work with Bureau of Reclamation on Tunnel Road Trailhead
  - b. Other Trailheads: the Dam overlook, the Chains, Tunnel Road, and Horseshoe Bend
  - c. Need to accommodate/plan for influx of visitation
2. Safety of Pedestrians
  - a. Speed Limits for traffic by H89 crossing
  - b. Intersection at Indigo Ridge (IMAX theatre and Visitors Center)
3. Cultural Compliance concerns – possible Traditional Cultural Property - investigate
4. Grades
  - a. Need to stay under 10%
  - b. ADA max grade is 5%
  - c. Steepest grade is ascent to Manson Mesa
5. Buffer around Peregrine/Raptor sites
  - a. If buffer is 1/3- mile, need to consult Fish and Wildlife Services
  - b. Only real concern is with the Raptors, everything else is okay
6. Make sure the EA covers a trail corridor and not just the 5- ft wide trail

**Stated Goal:** The EA would be completed and sent out by early fall 2008.