Planning for the Arizona Strip

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Planning Update #1
May 2002

Welcome to the land management planning process for the Arizona Strip. This process will take a comprehensive look at lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the National Park Service (NPS) for three geographic areas:

- Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument (BLM & NPS)
- Vermilion Cliffs National Monument (BLM)
- BLM public lands between the two monuments (BLM)

This is the first in a series of update letters that will familiarize you with this planning process.

We hope the following information will encourage you to participate in developing the future management strategies for these areas.

The enclosed *Planning Worksheet* is one way we will gather ideas. Another is through a series of open houses; the dates and locations are listed on the back page.

We want to hear from you. Thank you for joining us in planning for the future of the Arizona Strip.

Why are we Planning?
Two National Monuments were designated on the Arizona Strip in January and November of 2000. The Monuments were designated to protect an array of scientific and historic resources. In some cases the monument designations changed the management emphasis on these lands. Activities and uses have also changed on BLM public lands between the two monuments due inpart to increased use of public lands. For these reasons it is necessary to produce new management plans for the two Monuments and revise the management plan for the remaining Arizona Strip lands. We are now beginning this planning process.

The planning process is expected to take about three years and will follow the steps listed on page 2 - Planning Process. Note that *Public Participation - Scoping* is the first step.

As part of the management planning process, an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared. The EIS will assess possible environmental and social effects of different management alternatives for Federal lands within the planning area.

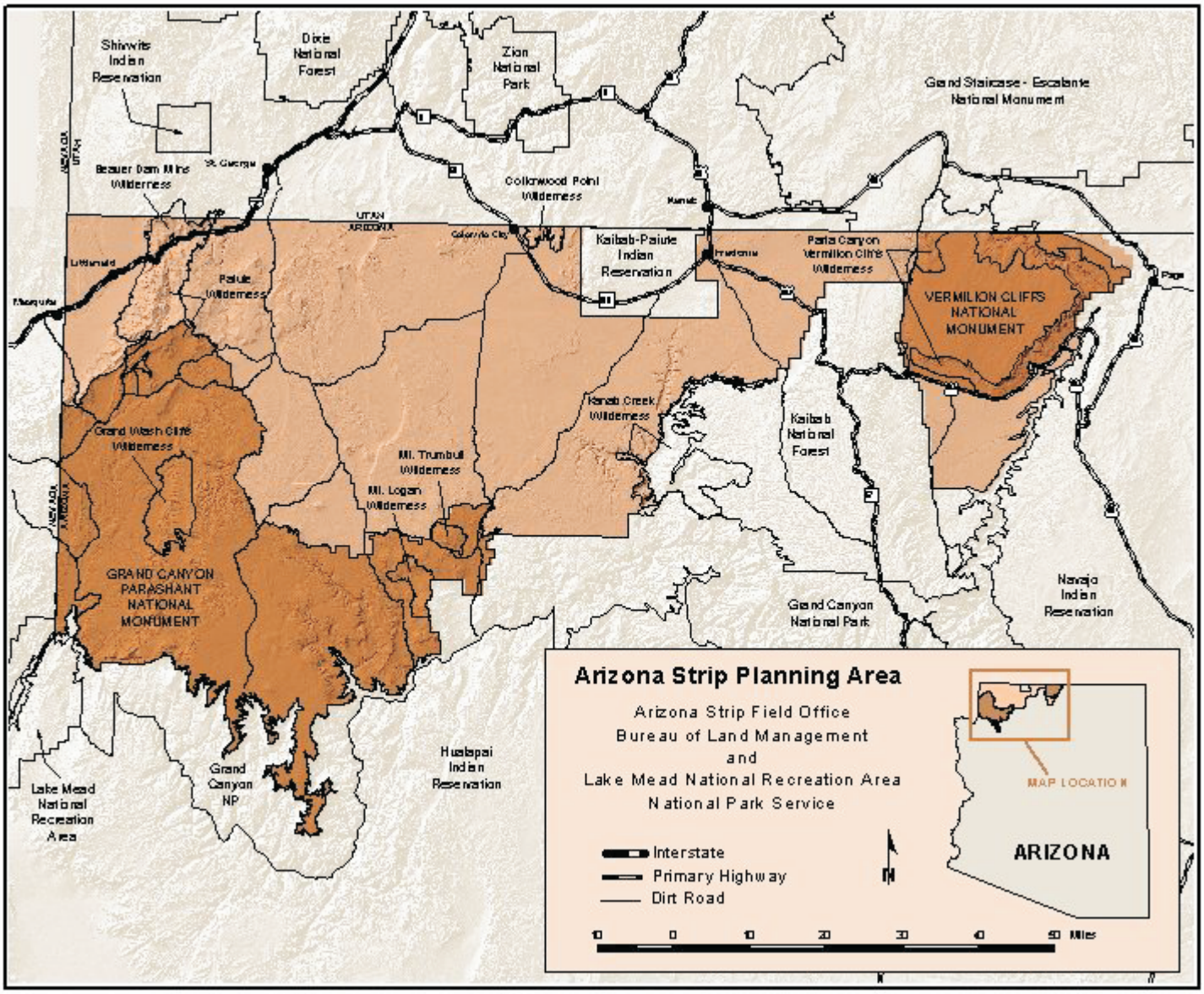
Planning Process

Public Participation - Scoping
⇩
Issues Identification
⇩
Develop Alternatives
⇩
Draft Management Plan/EIS
⇩
Public Comment Period
⇩
Proposed Management Plan/Final EIS
⇩
Approved Plan/Record of Decision

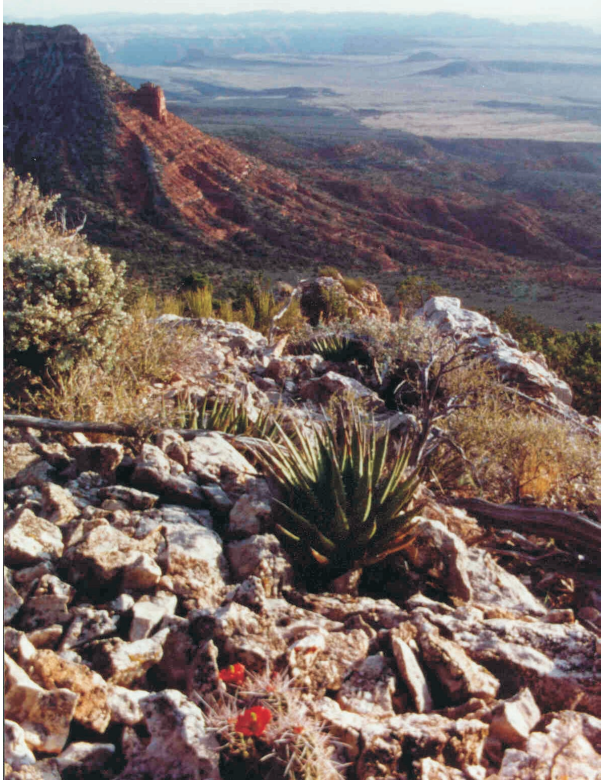
Planning Area

The Arizona Strip planning area encompasses over 2.8 million acres. This area is isolated from the rest of Arizona by the deep canyons of the Colorado River. Geographically, culturally and economically, the planning area is linked with communities in northern Arizona, southern Nevada, and Utah.

The Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984 designated eight wilderness areas on the Arizona Strip: Beaver Dam Wilderness Area (WA), the Paiute WA, Cottonwood Points WA, Kanab Creek WA, Mt. Logan WA, Mt. Trumbull WA, Grand Wash Cliffs WA, and the Paria Canyon Vermilion Cliffs WA.



Arizona Strip Field Office



Almost 2 million acres of public land in northwestern Arizona are managed by the Arizona Strip Field Office. The area consists of broad plateaus, rolling valleys, and impressive cliffs. These lands have important wildlife, scenic, cultural, recreation, vegetation, wilderness, mineral, and grazing values.

Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument was designated by Presidential Proclamation on January 11, 2000. The Monument is just over one million acres and is cooperatively managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service. The Monument is a vast, biologically diverse, and impressive landscape.

Vermilion Cliffs National Monument

Vermilion Cliffs National Monument was designated by Presidential Proclamation on November 9, 2000. The Monument covers about 293,000 acres and is located in the extreme northeast corner of the Arizona Strip. The Monument highlights sandstone slickrock, brilliant cliffs, and rolling sandy plateaus.

Planning Worksheet

Consider the following questions, then write down your thoughts about the future management of the Arizona Strip.

We invite you to comment on all geographic areas: Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, or the non-monument lands which are all managed by the Arizona Strip Field Office.

When submitting your comments, please specify the area. This is important because stand-alone plans will be completed for each unit. Attach additional pages if necessary. Once you have completed the worksheet, fold, tape, and mail by July 31, 2002.

Public comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Arizona Strip Field Office, 345 East Riverside Drive, St. George, Utah 84790, during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the end of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

1. What do you value about these public lands and why?

2. What activities or uses on these public lands are important to you and why?

3. How would you like to see the scientific, traditional, recreational, cultural and natural resources of these areas managed?

4. **Is there anything else you want to tell us?**

To make comments electronically, please email us at arizona_strip@blm.gov
For more information on the Arizona Strip visit our web site at www.az.blm.gov or www.nps.gov/para

Thank you for your interest in planning for the future of the Arizona Strip.

Please complete the following:

Name:_____

Address:_____

Email address:_____

☐ **Add my name to the mailing list.**

☐ **Note corrections to my name or address.**

☐ **Remove my name from the mailing list.**

☐ **Withhold my name and address from public review.**

National Monument Proclamations

In addition to the identification of scientific and historic resources, the Proclamations identified the following land management directives:

- All motorized and mechanized off-road use will be prohibited, except for emergency or authorized administrative purposes.
- The proclamations do not enlarge or diminish the jurisdiction of the State of Arizona with respect to fish and wildlife management.
- Establishment of the Monuments are subject to valid existing rights.
- Lands and interests within the boundary of the Monuments are appropriated and withdrawn from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, leasing, or other disposition under public land laws, including but not limited to withdrawal from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing, other than by exchange that furthers the protective purposes of the Monuments.
- Sale of vegetative material is permitted only if part of an authorized science-based ecological restoration project (Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument only).
- The proclamations do not reserve water as amatter of Federal law nor relinquish any water rights held by the Federal government. The Federal land management agencies shall work with appropriate State authorities to ensure that water resources needed for Monument purposes are available.
- BLM shall continue to issue and administer grazing leases within the portion of the Monument within Lake Mead National Recreation Area, consistent with the Recreation Areas authorizing legislation. Laws, regulations, and policies followed by BLM in issuing and administrating grazing leases on all lands under its jurisdiction shall continue to apply to the remaining portion of the Monument (Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument only).
- Laws, regulations, and policies followed by the BLM in issuing and administrating grazing leases on all lands under its jurisdiction shall continue to apply with regard to lands in the Monument (Vermilion Cliffs National Monument).
- Nothing in the proclamations shall be deemed to revoke existing withdrawal, reservation, or appropriation; however, the National Monument shall be the dominant reservation.
- It is not appropriate to injure, destroy, or remove any feature of the Monuments or to locate or settle upon any of the lands.

Open House Schedule - 2002

All meeting times are 4-7 p.m., local time.

May 28 (Tuesday), Beaver Dam Elementary School, 3436 East Rio Virgin Road, Beaver Dam, Arizona

May 29 (Wednesday), Dixie Convention Center, 1835 Convention Center Drive, St. George, Utah

May 30 (Thursday), The Marketing Center at the school (NW side of building), 50 North Colvin Street (100 East), Colorado City, Arizona

May 31 (Friday), Fredonia Elementary School, 222 North 200 East, Fredonia, Arizona

June 3 (Monday), Marriott Courtyard, 600 Club House Drive, Page, Arizona

June 4 (Tuesday), Du Bois Center, Fremont Room, Building 64, Pine Knoll Drive, Northern Arizona University Campus, Flagstaff, Arizona

June 5 (Wednesday), Crowne Plaza North Phoenix, 2532 West Peoria Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona

June 6 (Thursday), Kingman High School, 4182 North Bank Street, Kingman, Arizona

June 10 (Monday), University Park Hotel, 480 Wakara Way, Salt Lake City, Utah

June 12 (Wednesday), Cashman Center, 850 Las Vegas Boulevard North, Las Vegas, Nevada

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