

Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034, February 26, 1979); and (3) if promulgated, will not have a significant economic impact, positive or negative, on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. A copy of the draft regulatory evaluation prepared for this action is contained in the Rules Docket. A copy of it may be obtained by contacting the Rules Docket at the location provided under the caption ADDRESSES.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Safety.

The Proposed Amendment

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the Federal Aviation Administration proposes to amend part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 39) as follows:

PART 39—AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES

1. The authority citation for part 39 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40113, 44701.

§ 39.13 [Amended]

2. Section 39.13 is amended by adding a new airworthiness directive to read as follows:

Eurocopter France: Docket No. 2001–SW–07–AD.

Applicability: Model AS332C, L, L1, and L2 helicopters, with a pilot or co-pilot anti-torque pedal adjustment lever (lever), part number (P/N) 332A27.2344.20, that has not been modified in accordance with MOD 0726179, installed, certificated in any category.

Note 1: This AD applies to each helicopter identified in the preceding applicability provision, regardless of whether it has been otherwise modified, altered, or repaired in the area subject to the requirements of this AD. For helicopters that have been modified, altered, or repaired so that the performance of the requirements of this AD is affected, the owner/operator must request approval for an alternative method of compliance in accordance with paragraph (e) of this AD. The request should include an assessment of the effect of the modification, alteration, or repair on the unsafe condition addressed by this AD; and if the unsafe condition has not been eliminated, the request should include specific proposed actions to address it.

Compliance: Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To prevent failure of the lever, loss of braking ability on the ground or loss of yaw control in flight, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter, accomplish the following:

(a) For helicopters with 4,450 or more hours time-in-service (TIS), within 50 hours

TIS and thereafter at intervals not to exceed 1,500 hours TIS, perform a dye-penetrant inspection of the lever, P/N 332A27.2344.20, in accordance with paragraph 2.B. of the Accomplishment Instructions in Eurocopter Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) No. 67.00.19, dated July 23, 2001, except returning levers and reporting to the manufacturer are not required.

(b) For helicopters with less than 4,450 hours TIS, on or before accumulating 4,500 hours TIS, and thereafter at intervals not to exceed 1,500 hours TIS, perform a dye-penetrant inspection of the lever, P/N 332A27.2344.20, in accordance with paragraph 2.B. of the Accomplishment Instructions in ASB No. 67.00.19, dated July 23, 2001, except returning levers and reporting to the manufacturer are not required.

(c) Replace any cracked lever with an airworthy lever before further flight.

(d) Before June 5, 2003, modify the pedal unit and replace the adjustment levers in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions, Paragraph 2, in ASB No. 67.00.20, dated June 8, 2001. Modifying the pedal unit and replacing the adjustment levers in accordance with ASB 67.00.20, dated June 8, 2001, is a terminating action for the requirements of this AD.

(e) An alternative method of compliance or adjustment of the compliance time that provides an acceptable level of safety may be used if approved by the Manager, Regulations Group, Rotorcraft Directorate, FAA. Operators shall submit their requests through an FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may concur or comment and then send it to the Manager, Regulations Group.

Note 2: Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the Regulations Group.

(f) Special flight permits will not be issued.

Note 3: The subject of this AD is addressed in Direction Generale De L'Aviation Civile (France) AD Nos. 2000–487–017(A)R1 and 2000–486–077(A)R1, both dated September 5, 2001.

Issued in Fort Worth, Texas, on February 20, 2003.

Eric Bries,

*Acting Manager, Rotorcraft Directorate,
Aircraft Certification Service.*

[FR Doc. 03–5250 Filed 3–6–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2003–CE–05–AD]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; SOCATA—Groupe AEROSPATIALE Models TB 9, TB 10, TB 20, TB 21, TB 200, TMB 700, Rallye 100S, Rallye 150T, Rallye 150ST, Rallye 235E, and Rallye 235C Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This document proposes to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) that would apply to all SOCATA—Groupe AEROSPATIALE (SOCATA) Models TB 9, TB 10, TB 20, TB 21, TB 200, TMB 700, Rallye 100S, Rallye 150T, Rallye 150ST, Rallye 235E, and Rallye 235C airplanes. This proposed AD would require you to replace certain safety belts and restraint systems. This proposed AD is the result of mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) issued by the airworthiness authority for France. The actions specified by this proposed AD are intended to prevent failure of the safety belts and restraint systems caused by inadvertent opening of this equipment, which could result in bodily injury to the occupant during turbulence or landing.

DATES: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) must receive any comments on this proposed rule on or before April 29, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments to FAA, Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2003–CE–05–AD, 901 Locust, Room 506, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. You may view any comments at this location between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You may also send comments electronically to the following address: 9–ACE–7–Docket@faa.gov. Comments sent electronically must contain “Docket No. 2003–CE–05–AD” in the subject line. If you send comments electronically as attached electronic files, the files must be formatted in Microsoft Word 97 for Windows or ASCII text.

You may get service information that applies to this proposed AD from SOCATA—Groupe AEROSPATIALE, Customer Support, Aerodrome Tarbes-Ossun-Lourdes, BP 930–F65009 Tarbes Cedex, France; telephone: 011 33 5 62

41 73 00; facsimile: 011 33 5 62 41 76 54; or the Product Support Manager, SOCATA—Groupe AEROSPATIALE, North Perry Airport, 7501 Pembroke Road, Pembroke Pines, Florida 33023; telephone: (954) 894-1160; facsimile: (954) 964-4141. You may also view this information at the Rules Docket at the address above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karl Schletzbaum, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Room 301, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone: (816) 329-4146; facsimile: (816) 329-4090.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

How Do I Comment on This Proposed AD?

The FAA invites comments on this proposed rule. You may submit whatever written data, views, or arguments you choose. You need to include the rule's docket number and submit your comments to the address specified under the caption **ADDRESSES**. We will consider all comments received on or before the closing date. We may amend this proposed rule in light of comments received. Factual information that supports your ideas and suggestions is extremely helpful in evaluating the effectiveness of this proposed AD action and determining whether we need to take additional rulemaking action.

Are There Any Specific Portions of This Proposed AD I Should Pay Attention To?

The FAA specifically invites comments on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of this proposed rule that might suggest a need to modify the proposed rule. You may view all comments we receive before and after the closing date of the proposed rule in the Rules Docket. We will file a report in the Rules Docket that summarizes each contact we have with the public that concerns the substantive parts of this proposed AD.

How Can I Be Sure FAA Receives My Comment?

If you want FAA to acknowledge the receipt of your mailed comments, you must include a self-addressed, stamped postcard. On the postcard, write "Comments to Docket No. 2003-CE-05-AD." We will date stamp and mail the postcard back to you.

Discussion

What Events Have Caused This Proposed AD?

The Direction Générale de l'Aviation Civile (DGAC), which is the airworthiness authority for France, recently notified FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on all SOCATA Models TB 9, TB 10, TB 20, TB 21, TB

200, TMB 700, Rallye 100S, Rallye 150T, Rallye 150ST, Rallye 235E, and Rallye 235C airplanes. The DGAC reports inadvertent opening of the Anjou Aeronautique/TRW Repa S.A./L'Aiglou Types 343, 343-1, 343-1, 343M, 343AM, 343B, 343BM, 343C, 343CM, and 343D safety belts and restraint systems.

Further investigation into this subject found that a Model TBM 700 airplane was involved in a fatal accident on March 25, 2002. The report on this accident indicated that the pilot's seat belt buckle was broken and that all seat belts in the aircraft would snap open when given a sharp jerk. The belts involved were all Type 343-1 belts. The report also noted that belts tested in several other TBM 700 airplanes at a nearby hangar were found to snap open when given the quick-jerk test.

What Are the Consequences if the Condition Is Not Corrected?

Failure of the safety belts and restraint systems caused by inadvertent opening of this equipment could result in bodily injury to the occupant during turbulence or landing.

Is There Service Information That Applies to This Subject?

SOCATA has issued the following service letters for the affected airplanes:

Models	Service letter
TB 9, TB 10, TB 20, TB 21, and TB 200	SL 10-057, dated June 2002.
TMB 700	SL 70-027, dated June 2002.
Rallye 100S, Rallye 150T, Rallye 150ST, Rallye 235E, and Rallye 235C	SL 023, dated June 2002.

What Are the Provisions of This Service Information?

The service letters include procedures for:
 —Repetitive visual inspections of the seat belt assembly; and
 —Replacement of the seat belt assembly.

What Action Did the DGAC Take?

The DGAC classified these service letters as mandatory and, in order to ensure the continued airworthiness of these airplanes in France, issued the following French ADs:

- AD Number 2002-104(AB), dated February 20, 2002; and
- AD Number 2002-105(AB), dated February 20, 2002.

Was This in Accordance With the Bilateral Airworthiness Agreement?

These airplane models are manufactured in France and are type certificated for operation in the United

States under the provisions of § 21.29 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.29) and the applicable bilateral airworthiness agreement.

Pursuant to this bilateral airworthiness agreement, the DGAC has kept FAA informed of the situation described above.

The FAA's Determination and an Explanation of the Provisions of This Proposed AD

What Has FAA Decided?

The FAA has examined the findings of the DGAC; reviewed all available information, including the service information referenced above; and determined that:

- The unsafe condition referenced in this document exists or could develop on other SOCATA Models TB 9, TB 10, TB 20, TB 21, TB 200, TMB 700, Rallye 100S, Rallye 150T, Rallye 150ST, Rallye 235E, and Rallye 235C

of the same type design that are on the U.S. registry;

- The actions specified in the previously-referenced service information should be accomplished on the affected airplanes; and
- AD action should be taken in order to correct this unsafe condition.

What Would This Proposed AD Require?

This proposed AD would require you to replace the Anjou Aeronautique/TRW Repa S.A./L'Aiglou Types 343, 343-1, 343-1, 343M, 343AM, 343B, 343BM, 343C, 343CM, and 343D safety belts and restraint systems.

Cost Impact

How Many Airplanes Would This Proposed AD Impact?

We estimate that this proposed AD affects 617 airplanes in the U.S. registry:

Models	How many	Models	How many
TB 9, TB 10, TB 20, TB 21, and TB 2	420	Rallye 100S, Rallye 150T, Rallye 150ST, Rallye 235E, and Rallye 235C	39
TBM 700	158		

What Would Be the Cost Impact of This Proposed AD on Owners/Operators of the Affected Airplanes?

We estimate the following costs to accomplish the proposed seat belt assembly replacement for Models TB 9, TB 10, TB 20, TB 21, and TB 200 airplanes:

Labor cost	Parts cost	Total cost per airplane	Total cost on U.S. operators
2 workhours × \$60 per hour = \$120 for all 4 seats	4 seats × \$83 (each seat belt assembly) = \$332	\$452	\$452 × 420 = \$189,840

We estimate the following costs to accomplish the proposed seat belt assembly replacement for Model TBM 700 airplanes:

Labor cost	Parts cost	Total cost per airplane	Total cost on U.S. operators
3 workhours × \$60 per hour = \$180 for all 6 seats	6 seats × \$135 (each seat belt assembly) = \$810	\$990	\$990 × 158 = \$156,420

We estimate the following costs to accomplish the proposed seat belt assembly replacement for Models Rallye 100S, Rallye 150T, Rallye 150ST, Rallye 235E, and Rallye 235C airplanes:

Labor cost	Parts cost	Total cost per airplane	Total cost on U.S. operators
2 workhours × \$60 per hour = \$120 for all 4 seats	4 seats × \$33 (each seat belt assembly) = \$132	\$252	\$252 × 39 = \$9,828

Regulatory Impact

Would This Proposed AD Impact Various Entities?

The regulations proposed herein would not have a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Therefore, it is determined that this proposed rule would not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132.

Would This Proposed AD Involve a Significant Rule or Regulatory Action?

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this proposed action (1) is not a “significant regulatory action” under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a “significant rule” under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034, February 26, 1979); and (3) if promulgated, will not have a significant economic impact, positive or negative,

on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. A copy of the draft regulatory evaluation prepared for this action has been placed in the Rules Docket. A copy of it may be obtained by contacting the Rules Docket at the location provided under the caption **ADDRESSES**.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Safety.

The Proposed Amendment

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the Federal Aviation Administration proposes to amend part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 39) as follows:

PART 39—AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES

1. The authority citation for part 39 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40113, 44701.

§ 39.13 [Amended]

2. FAA amends § 39.13 by adding a new airworthiness directive (AD) to read as follows:

Socata—Groupe Aerospatiale: Docket No. 2003-CE-05-AD.

(a) *What airplanes are affected by this AD?* This AD affects Models TB 9, TB 10, TB 20, TB 21, TB 200, TMB 700, Rallye 100S, Rallye 150T, Rallye 150ST, Rallye 235E, and Rallye 235C airplanes, all serial numbers, that are certificated in any category.

(b) *Who must comply with this AD?* Anyone who wishes to operate any of the airplanes identified in paragraph (a) of this AD must comply with this AD.

(c) *What problem does this AD address?* The actions specified by this AD are intended to prevent failure of the safety belts and restraint systems caused by inadvertent opening of this equipment, which could result in bodily injury to the occupant during turbulence or landing.

(d) *What actions must I accomplish to address this problem?* To address this problem, you must accomplish the following:

Actions	Compliance	Procedures
<p>(1) For Models TB 9, TB 10, TB 20, TB 21, TB 200, replace the Anjou Aeronautique/TRW Repa S.A./L'Aiglon Types 343, 343-1, 343-1, 343M, 343AM, 343B, 343BM, 343C, 343CM, and 343D safety belts and restraint systems, as follows.</p> <p>(i) Replace safety type belt (2 points) with SOCATA part number (P/N) Z00.N6003987223 or FAA-approved equivalent P/N.</p> <p>(ii) Replace safety type belt (3 points) with SOCATA P/N Z00.N6003987224 or FAA-approved equivalent P/N.</p>	<p>Within the next 100 hours time-in-service (TIS) after the effective date of this AD, unless already accomplished.</p>	<p>In accordance with EADS SOCATA Service Letter SL 10-057, dated June 2002, and the applicable airplane maintenance manual.</p>
<p>(2) For Model TMB 700, replace the Anjou Aeronautique/TRW Repa S.A./L'Aiglon Types 343, 343-1, 343-1, 343M, 343AM, 343B, 343BM, 343C, 343CM, and 343D safety belts and restraint systems, as follows.</p> <p>(i) Replace safety type belt P/N T700A2510007103 (gray or beige color) with SOCATA P/N T700A251000710900 (gray) or P/N T700A251000711600 (beige), or FAA-approved equivalent P/Ns.</p> <p>(ii) Replace safety type belt P/N T700A2510007104 (gray or beige color) with SOCATA P/N T700A251000711000 (gray) or P/N T700A251000711700 (beige), or FAA-approved equivalent P/Ns.</p> <p>(iii) Replace safety type belt P/N T700A2510007105 (gray or beige color) with SOCATA P/N T700A251000710800 (gray) or P/N T700A251000711500 (beige), or FAA-approved equivalent P/Ns.</p>	<p>Within the next 100 hours time-in-service (TIS) after the effective date of this AD, unless already accomplished.</p>	<p>In accordance with EADS SOCATA Service Letter SL 70-027, dated June 2002, and the applicable maintenance manual.</p>
<p>(3) For Models Rallye 100S, Rallye 150T, Rallye 150ST, Rallye 235E, and Rallye 235C, replace the Anjou Aeronautique/TRW Repa S.A./L'Aiglon Types 343, 343-1, 343-1, 343M, 343AM, 343B, 343BM, 343C, 343CM, and 343D safety belts and restraint systems with SOCATA P/N Z00.N6003987223 or FAA-approved equivalent P/N.</p>	<p>Within the next 100 hours time-in-service (TIS) after the effective date of this AD, unless already accomplished.</p>	<p>In accordance with EADS SOCATA Service Letter SL 023, dated June 2002, and the applicable airplane maintenance manual.</p>
<p>(4) On any affected models, do not install any Anjou Aeronautique/TRW Repa S.A./L'Aiglon Types 343, 343-1, 343-1, 343M, 343AM, 343B, 343BM, 343C, 343CM, and 343D safety belts and restraint systems.</p>	<p>As of the effective date of this AD</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>

(e) *Can I comply with this AD in any other way?* You may use an alternative method of compliance or adjust the compliance time if:

(1) Your alternative method of compliance provides an equivalent level of safety; and

(2) The Standards Office Manager, Small Airplane Directorate, approves your alternative. Submit your request through an FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Standards Office Manager.

Note 1: This AD applies to each airplane identified in paragraph (a) of this AD, regardless of whether it has been modified, altered, or repaired in the area subject to the requirements of this AD. For airplanes that have been modified, altered, or repaired so that the performance of the requirements of this AD is affected, the owner/operator must request approval for an alternative method of compliance in accordance with paragraph (e) of this AD. The request should include an

assessment of the effect of the modification, alteration, or repair on the unsafe condition addressed by this AD; and, if you have not eliminated the unsafe condition, specific actions you propose to address it.

(f) *Where can I get information about any already-approved alternative methods of compliance?* Contact Karl Schletzbaum, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Room 301, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone: (816) 329-4146; facsimile: (816) 329-4090.

(g) *What if I need to fly the airplane to another location to comply with this AD?* The FAA can issue a special flight permit under sections 21.197 and 21.199 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199) to operate your airplane to a location where you can accomplish the requirements of this AD.

(h) *How do I get copies of the documents referenced in this AD?* You may get copies of

the documents referenced in this AD from SOCATA Groupe AEROSPATIALE, Customer Support, Aerodrome Tarbes-Ossun-Lourdes, BP 930—F65009 Tarbes Cedex, France; telephone: 011 33 5 62 41 73 00; facsimile: 011 33 5 62 41 76 54; or the Product Support Manager, SOCATA—Groupe AEROSPATIALE, North Perry Airport, 7501 Pembroke Road, Pembroke Pines, Florida 33023; telephone: (954) 894-1160; facsimile: (954) 964-4141. You may view these documents at FAA, Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, 901 Locust, Room 506, Kansas City, Missouri 64106.

Note 2: The subject of this AD is addressed in the following French ADs:

AD Number 2002-104(AB), dated February 20, 2002; and

AD Number 2002-105(AB), dated February 20, 2002.

Issued in Kansas City, Missouri, on February 28, 2003.

Michael Gallagher,

Manager, Small Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 03-5387 Filed 3-6-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

36 CFR Part 7

RIN 1024-AD10

Special Regulations, Areas of the National Park System; Saguaro National Park, Designated Bicycle Routes

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service (NPS) has proposed this rule to designate a route where bicycles may be used off road in Saguaro National Park. This rule is necessary because the NPS regulations for bicycle use off park roads in units of the National Park System require that a special regulation be promulgated in order to allow use on trails outside of developed park areas.

DATES: Comments must be received by May 6, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be sent to the Superintendent, Saguaro National Park, 3693 South Old Spanish Trail, Tucson, AZ 85730-5601 E-mail: SAGU_Cactus_Forest_Trail@nps.gov. Fax: (520) 733-5183.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kym Hall, Regulations Program Manager, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW., Room 7248, Washington, DC 20240. Phone number: (202) 208-4206. E-mail: Kym_Hall@nps.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description of Saguaro National Park

Saguaro National Park is an important national resource visited by approximately 755,618 people annually. The gross area acreage is 91,445.96 (Federal: 87,156.17; Nonfederal: 4,289.79) of which 71,400 acres are designated wilderness. Giant saguaro cacti, unique to the Sonoran Desert, sometimes reach a height of 50 feet in this cactus forest, which covers the valley floor and the slopes of the Rincon and Tucson Mountains. The Cactus Forest Trail is a multi-use trail (5.3 miles long) that originates at the northern boundary of the park and eventually bisects the Cactus Forest Loop Drive. The segment of the Cactus

Forest Trail within the loop drive is 2.5 miles long. Cactus Forest Loop Drive, an 8 mile paved loop road located in the western portion of the Rincon Mountain District, originates from the main entrance and visitor center and is the only paved road in the park. The Cactus Forest Trail is designed along the natural topography and vegetation of the area and meanders through a relatively even elevation with rolling hills and gentle peaks. The trail is lined with a variety and abundance of desert trees and shrubs.

Legislation and Purposes of Saguaro National Park

Saguaro National Park was initially reserved as a national monument on March 1, 1933 (Proclamation No. 2032, 47 Stat. 2557), and transferred from the Forest Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, to the National Park Service on August 10, 1933. This area was of outstanding scientific interest because of the exceptional growth of various species of cacti, including the so-called giant saguaro cactus. Proclamation 3439 (November 16, 1961), enlarged the boundaries of the Saguaro National Monument to include certain lands within the Tucson Mountains containing a remarkable display of relatively undisturbed lower Sonoran desert vegetation, including a spectacular saguaro stand. Public Law 94-567 (October 1976) designated parts of Saguaro National Monument as a wilderness area, known as the Saguaro Wilderness.

On January 3, 1991 Congress passed the "Saguaro National Monument Expansion Act of 1991" to authorize the addition of approximately 3,540 acres to the Rincon unit of Saguaro National Monument in order to protect, preserve, and interpret the monument's resources, and to provide for education and benefit to the public. Under the Saguaro National Park Establishment Act of 1994, Saguaro National Monument was given full recognition and statutory protection and renamed a National Park. See 16 U.S.C. 410ZZ.

Management Plans

Saguaro National Park General Management Plan (GMP) was completed in 1988. The GMP envisions the Rincon Mountain District as a main attraction for the first-time visitors, with the focus on the Saguaro forest and the lower Sonoran desert. Suggested frontcountry recreational uses include " * * * biking, jogging, picnicking, sunset watching, and horseback riding", while the " * * * backcountry wilderness would continue to be used primarily by hikers and horseback riders." In the 1988 plan,

the Cactus Forest trail is located in the frontcountry natural zone with a historic zone overlay. The management emphasis of the natural zone is the conservation of natural resources and processes. The plan states that "In certain locations, uses are allowed that do not adversely affect these resources and processes."

The park's trail plan for the Cactus Forest section of the Rincon Mountain District was completed in 1991. In addition to hiking and equestrian use, the plan proposed that the Cactus Forest Trail inside the Cactus Forest Loop Road be open to bicycle use for a one-year trial period. The plan also proposed the monitoring program designed to evaluate the environmental and social impacts of mountain bike use on the trail. The park adopted the plan's proposal and the trial period was extended for more than 10 years. The monitoring plan results indicated, overall, that any adverse impacts associated with bicycle use was negligible.

Since 1992, bicyclists, pedestrians, and equestrians were allowed to use the portion of the Cactus Forest Trail within the paved loop drive area. Recently, it was brought to the Park's attention that National Park Service regulations appear to require promulgation of a special regulation to permit bicycle use along the 2.5-mile section of the Cactus Forest Trail. In reviewing the actions leading to the opening of this trail for mountain bike use over ten years ago, the Park discovered that the requirements in the regulation governing bicycle use had not been followed. While the trail is located in the frontcountry as identified in the GMP, the area is designated a natural zone. Under the servicewide regulations, because the trail is not in a developed area or special use zone the park is required by 36 CFR 4.30(b) to adopt a special regulation to designate a route for bicycle use. In part the regulations state that:

Routes may only be designated for bicycle use based on a written determination that such use is consistent with the protection of a park area's natural, scenic and aesthetic values, safety considerations and management objectives and will not disturb wildlife or park resources. Except for routes designated in developed areas and special use zones, routes designated for bicycle use shall be promulgated as special regulations. (36 CFR 4.30)

Based on the criteria in the regulations, and the fact that the trail was not identified as being in a developed zone in the GMP in 1988, the Park determined that it did not then have the authority to allow such use on