

Proposed Action Kaibab Campground Capital Improvement Project September 2008

Background

The Williams Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest is proposing to improve the Kaibab Lake Campground. Kaibab Lake Campground is located in Coconino County, Section 14, R. 2E, T. 22N, approximately four miles northeast of Williams, Arizona. The campground was initially constructed in the mid-1950. Since then, there have been further construction projects within the campground to provide additional campsites and facilities, and refurbish declining amenities. The current layout includes 63 campsites, a boat ramp, an accessible fishing dock, a large amphitheatre, and day-use parking. Also, there are two group site camping areas that include covered shelters (ramadas).

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of this project is to provide capital improvements at Kaibab Lake Campground in a manner that aligns with Forest Plan objectives, meets accessibility transition requirements, and achieves the goals of the recreation facilities analysis. The proposed improvements have been identified in the Kaibab National Forest Plan (KNFP or Forest Plan)¹.

Chapter 2,” (page 10 KNFP) provides the following direction

- “Management of all public sector sites at the standard service level. Replacement of substandard facilities and improvement of public sector campgrounds that will upgrade sites to their original design standards

Chapter 4 (page 17 KNFP and pages 108-109) identifies the following goals:

- “Manage the recreation resources and provide facilities to increase opportunities for a wide variety of developed and dispersed experiences. Manage facilities and use to minimize resource degradation and to provide for the safety and well being of the public. Design resource activities to maintain and enhance visual quality”;
- “Upgrade facilities in RIM condition class 2 to RIM condition class 1. Reconstruct or replace substandard facilities (e.g. tables, fire rings, toilets, pads, etc) in the following public sector campgrounds: 2. Kaibab Lake Campground.”

The current condition of facilities at the existing site is fair to good. Most of the sites have tables, hydrants, and grills. The sites are not currently accessible, nor are there pathways between facilities. The existing water tank is in need of heavy maintenance, hydrants serving the upper loops are not accessible, and new signing is needed. All reconstruction improvements will follow the KNF Transition Plan for Accessibility².

¹ Kaibab National Forest Land Management Plan amended June 1996. USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Region.

² Kaibab National Forest Transition Plan for Accessibility, 2001.

Proposed Action

The Forest Service proposes to The Williams Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest proposes to expand and improve camping and day-use at Kaibab Lake Campground to meet the purpose and need.

Decision Framework

Given the purpose and need, the deciding official will review the proposed action and the other alternatives in order to make the following decisions:

Whether, or not, to authorize the capital improvements at Kaibab Lake Campground and in what manner as described in the proposed action or alternative to the proposed action.

Public Involvement

The proposal was listed in the Schedule of Proposed Actions in January of 2008. The proposal is being provided to the public and other agencies for comment during this scoping, notice and comment period. In addition, as part of the public involvement process, the agency posted the Proposed Action at the Williams and Forest Service Visitor Center, the Williams Ranger District Office, and the Kaibab National Forest Supervisor's Office, and the Kaibab National Forest Website.

Alternatives

Alternative 1 - Proposed Action

Kaibab Campground Capital Improvement Project EA, expand and improve camping and day-use at Kaibab Lake Campground.

1. Replace waterlines and hydrants
2. Construct a new camping loop in the upper area with 15-20 campsites
3. Reconstruct existing camping spurs to accommodate trailers and RV's and install new tent pads at some campsites
4. Repave / resurface / realign (as needed) campground roads and spurs
5. Make improvements at existing group camping areas
6. Make improvements for accessibility at campsites and group areas
7. Make improvements at day-use / picnic area, including the addition of new parking spaces and day-use picnic tables
8. Decommission the dump station
9. Reconstruct the host sites
10. Construct new trails
11. Centralize water hydrants, trash receptacles, bulletin boards at restrooms

Alternative 2 - No Action

Under the No Action alternative, current management plans would continue to guide management of the project area. No campground improvements would be implemented to accomplish project goals.

Mitigation Measures Specific to Alternative 2

- Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be used to protect the soil and watershed, and to minimize non-point source pollution from management activities. Activities will be restricted when the potential for soil damage is high.
- A small portion along the road into the campground is known to have noxious weeds, specifically, dalmation toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*). This area and the area of ground disturbance within the campground will be surveyed. Weed populations will be controlled before ground disturbing activities begin, in the area of the populations.

Table 1. Preliminary Summary of Effects

	Alternative 1 Proposed Action		Alternative 2 No Action	
Range	No effect, as the campground area is fenced to exclude cattle and is not currently part of any cattle allotment.		No effect, as the campground area is fenced to exclude cattle and is not currently part of any cattle allotment.	
Timber / Silviculture	No effect.		No effect.	
Wildlife	Bald Eagle (sensitive)	Short-term increase in potential disturbance effects due to noise and human activity within ¼ mile of construction activities.	Bald Eagle (sensitive)	No increased in potential disturbance effects above the baseline level from the campground
	Northern Goshawk (sensitive)	Short-term increase in potential disturbance effects due to noise and human activity within ¼ mile of construction activities.	Northern Goshawk (sensitive)	No increased in potential disturbance effects above the baseline level from the campground
Fire / Fuels	No effect, but any fuels (slash) created through the removal trees should be removed from the campground.		No effect.	
Recreation	Improved ADA accessibility, improved public access, improvement of the substandard facilities (e.g. tables, fire rings,		Decrease ADA accessibility, limited capacity for a large period of time during the operating season. Current substandard facilities (e.g.	

	Alternative 1 Proposed Action	Alternative 2 No Action
	toilets, pads, etc), and improved capacity for a campground that is at, or over, capacity on some weekends and all holiday weekends.	tables, fire rings, toilets, pads, etc) would continue to deteriorate. KNFP direction would not be followed.
Heritage	No adverse effect to any archeological sites.	No effect to any archeological sites.

Appeals Process

If the Responsible Official decides to implement the proposed action, the decision would be subject to administrative appeal (36 CFR 215). Only those who provide comment, or otherwise express interest, in the proposed action by the close of the comment period will be accepted as appellants. The opportunity to comment ends 30 days from the publication of the legal notice in the Arizona Daily Sun. This publication date is the exclusive means for calculating the time to submit comments on the proposed action. Those wishing to comment on this proposal should not rely upon dates or timeframes provided by any other source. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal must include the sender's full name, address, and signature or other verification of identity upon request.

Additional Information

For additional information contact Deirdre A. McLaughlin at the Williams Ranger District 928.635.5662; 742 S. Clover Rd Williams, AZ 86046; damclaughlin@fs.fed.us.