



Saguaro National Park News Release

For Immediate Release

June 18, 2007

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SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON PARK TRAILS

Saguaro National Park is currently in the process of preparing a comprehensive trails plan for both the Rincon and Tucson Mountain Districts of the park. The plan will provide guidance for establishing and maintaining a sustainable trail network that protects natural and cultural resources, while providing reasonable access and a variety of trail recreational experiences for its visitors.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental assessment will be prepared for the plan that looks at alternative ways to manage trails, and that analyzes the potential natural, cultural, and social impacts of those alternatives.

The park has drafted two different alternatives that display proposed trail networks for each district. Although the alternatives show slightly different trail networks, there are a number of actions that would be common to both alternatives, such as badly needed trail re-routes, comprehensive trails standards, common signage, proposed parking areas, potential partnerships with adjacent lands, and commitments identified in the park's general management plan. At this stage of planning, both alternatives result in a net increase in the number of trail miles for both districts.

Prior to analyzing the potential environmental impacts associated with these alternatives, the park would like to provide opportunities for the public to see the work done so far, and to hear any ideas and concerns about this planning effort. Three open house gatherings have been scheduled:

Tuesday June 26, 2007
Magee Middle School
8300 East Speedway Blvd.
Tucson, AZ 85710
4:00 – 7:00 pm

Wednesday June 27, 2007
Picture Rocks Intermediate School
5875 North Sanders Road
Tucson, AZ 85743
4:00 – 7:00 pm

Thursday June 28, 2007
Pima County Parks & Recreation
Natural Resources Building
3500 West River Road
Tucson, AZ 85741
11:00 am – 2:00 pm

For those unable to attend one of the open house, the draft alternatives may be viewed and commented upon online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/sagu> (click on comprehensive trails plan and then go to document list). Comments may also be mailed to the Superintendent at Saguaro National Park, 3693 South Old Spanish Trail, Tucson, AZ 85730. **Comments must be received by July 28, 2007.** Another opportunity to comment on the draft plan will be provided when it is released later this year.