



130 South Scott Avenue, Tucson, Arizona 85701
Telephone: 520.901.8501 Fax: 520.670.5530
Website: www.ecr.gov

February 8th, 2007

Dear interested participant,

The Middle Gila Canyons Travel Management Planning Project has officially begun. During the coming months, a collaborative process will be underway to develop a proposed action for travel management planning in the Middle Gila Canyons area. This collaborative process, sponsored by the BLM's Tucson Field Office, will be convened, facilitated, and documented by the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution. The U. S. Institute is a federal program established in 1998 by the U. S. Congress to assist parties in resolving environmental, natural resource, and public land conflicts. The Institute is a program of the Tucson-based Morris K. Udall Foundation, an independent agency of the executive branch of the United States Government (for more information on the U. S. Institute and its programs, see: www.ecr.gov).

You have been invited to be a part of a broadly representative working group that will participate in a series of workshops that will seek agreement on the key elements of a proposed action for a comprehensive travel management plan. The planning process will take a landscape-scale approach, but will focus only on the federal lands administered by the BLM. The discussions will also seek to reach agreement on specific prescriptions for key controversial sites such as Martinez Canyon.

The results of these collaborative discussions will offer recommendations for the BLM in defining the proposed action for the travel management plan. The proposed action will be analyzed for compliance with the NEPA and other public land laws. The environmental review will be completed by BLM after the description of the proposed action is finalized.

The initial organizational meeting for the Middle Gila Canyons Travel Management Planning process has been scheduled **for Thursday evening, February 22, from 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.** at the U.S. Institute located in Tucson. This meeting will offer an overview of resource management and recreation issues in the Middle Gila Canyons area, a description of the decision process, and a general discussion of meeting procedures. This Tucson location is only set for the first organizational meeting. Future meeting sites for the upcoming workshops will be determined by the participants who attend this initial organizational meeting.

Meeting Location:

**The U.S. Institute for
Environmental Conflict Resolution
130 South Scott Ave
Tucson, AZ 85701**

Date: February 22, 2007

Time: 6:00P.M.-8:00 P.M.

The Institute is pleased to be working on this project and we look forward to working with you all in the months ahead. If you cannot attend this meeting, the Institute will continue to deliver updates on future opportunities to include your input into this process.

Please R.S.V.P for this meeting by sending a message to caringer@ecr.gov or calling (520) 901-8534 no later than February 15th, 2007.

Sincerely,

Larry Fisher, Ph.D.

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Attachment: Meeting Agenda