

Proposed Equestrian Campground

Southern Nevada District



Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area

April 23, 2010



Proposed Project Introduction

Equestrian campground, as proposed by Special Recreation Permit holder:

- Large open area to accommodate 15 equestrian campsites with:
 - Fire pits
 - Portable corrals
 - Picnic Tables
 - Primitive shade shelters
- Paint all facilities natural colors
- Need it quickly, spring season

Management Direction:

- Review proposed project and make visual resource recommendations.



Proposed Site Background

- **Within Red Rock Canyon NCA**
- **Within Visual Resource Management Class II**
- **Adjacent to busy highway (Highway 159)**
- **3 miles from campground**
- **Visible from several heavily visited public overlooks within the Red Rock NCA.**
- **No other equestrian-specific campgrounds in southern Nevada.**
- **Increasing equestrian use in the area.**
 - **PRCA Pro Rodeo Circuit event in Las Vegas each November**
 - **3 other large annual events.**



Background

- **Current SRP holder has been conducting guided horse rides for 15 years in this location.**
- **Current facilities at this location:**
 - **Three corrals (one large holding 50+ horses, one small and one near mounting facility)**
 - **Parking areas**
 - **Multiple use trailheads**
 - **Roads**
 - **Two structures (one for public orientation and horse mounting and one for horse administration)**
 - **Fences**



Current Public Use in Area

- Equestrian
- Hiking
- Mountain Biking
- Scenic Highway driving
- Photography
- Open space enjoyment
- Environmental Education (School-aged children)



Existing Site



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Proposed Site



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Visual Contrast Rating Analysis

Existing Condition

	Land/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Prominent Mesa – Steep slopes	Diverse, clumpy	Horizontal strip, vertical elements
Line	Strong vertical; undulating	Stippled and irregular	Horizontal, bold with vertical elements
Color	Rust brown, light green grays	Gray green	Medium browns and grays
Texture	Medium coarse	Rough and scattered fines	Smooth and clumped combos



Visual Contrast Rating Analysis

Proposed Action

	Land/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Flat pads and connecting roads	Loss of veg @ constructed areas	Corrals and camp pads; vertical and horizontal structures
Line	Increased horizontal lines	Defined, sharp lines	Increased vertical and horizontal lines
Color	Increased light soil contrast	Same, but loss of some veg	Camp spots and facilities natural colors; contrasting colors from visitor vehicles
Texture	Smooth (roads and pads)	Same, but loss of some veg	Bright, reflective colors, smooth



Visual Contrast Rating Analysis

Proposed Action

	Land/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Degree of Contrast			
Form	Weak	Strong	Strong
Line	Strong	Strong	Strong
Color	Strong	Strong	Strong
Texture	Strong	Strong	Strong

- Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? NO
- Additional mitigation measures recommended? YES



Visual Contrast Rating Analysis

Comments:

- Proposed campground does not meet VRM Class II objectives.
- There are no feasible mitigation measures that would allow the project to be constructed at the proposed site and meet VRM Class II objectives.
- Suggest relocation/alternative site(s).
 - Redesign proposal to be located behind hillside (meets Special Recreation Permit holder needs/BLM needs).
 - Adjacent to Red Rock Campground – construct equestrian trails to connect to existing equestrian trails (meets BLM needs but not Special Recreation Permit holder needs).



Redesign proposal to be located behind hillside (meets Special Recreation Permit holder needs/BLM needs).



- Proposed facility no longer visible from KOPs.
- Still relatively close to existing equestrian facilities.
- Preserve access to equestrian trails.
- Preserve access off of Highway 159.

Questions?



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