



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Phoenix Area Office
6150 West Thunderbird Road
Glendale, Arizona 85306-4001



PXAO-1500
ENV-6.00

April 5, 2012

MEMORANDUM

To: All Interested Persons, Organizations and Agencies

From: Randy N. Chandler
Area Manager

Subject: Notice of Public Scoping for Preparation of an Environmental Assessment Concerning Construction and Operation of a Proposed Zip Line Concession at Lake Pleasant Regional Park, Maricopa and Yavapai Counties, Arizona (Action by April 27, 2012)

The Bureau of Reclamation is overseeing preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) describing the anticipated impacts from construction and operation of a zip line¹ tour/ride concession. The concession would be located on the northwest side of Lake Pleasant Regional Park (LPRP), adjacent to Cottonwood Creek, south of the 4-lane boat ramp and Cottonwood Day Use area (Figure 1). The public is invited to comment on the scope and concerns that should be included in the EA.

BACKGROUND

Reclamation owns the land upon which LPRP is located, including the reservoir Lake Pleasant, which is formed by New Waddell Dam. Under a 1990 Recreation Land Use Agreement, Maricopa County's Parks and Recreation Department manages LPRP as a regional park consistent with a Recreation Master Plan (RMP), which was approved by Reclamation in 1997.

Because a zip line concession was not included in the RMP's list of potential LPRP future developments, Reclamation must approve an amendment of the RMP to include the proposed concession. Prior to its approval, Reclamation must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, as well as other applicable environmental statutes and regulations. To comply with NEPA, Reclamation is requiring preparation of an EA to describe the anticipated environmental consequences resulting from the proposed zip line concession.

¹ A zip line is a transportation system or piece of recreation equipment consisting of a cable stretched between points of different elevations, a pulley, and a harness or bar for attaching a rider, who moves by gravity. (<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/zipline> last accessed 3/20/2012)

ZIP LINE TOUR/RIDE CONCESSION

The LPRP zip line tour/ride concession at LPRP is intended to be operated year-round, dependent upon market conditions, and would consist of the following features:

1. Zip Line Tour: This would be a 1- to 3-hour tour comprised of a series of ground-to-ground, ground-to-tower, tower-to-ground, and tower-to-tower cables, incorporating zip lines, sky bridges, rappels, hiking, and other adventure elements. Typically offered through advanced reservations, these would be guided interactive explorations of the geography and ecology of the area.
2. Zip Line Ride: This ride would be offered to provide an additional visitor experience. Two to four riders race down parallel lines, trying to be the first to reach the end. The ride is offered on a first come, first served basis.
3. Retail Sales: A small storefront would be maintained with logo wear, tour photographs, memorabilia, and non-alcoholic beverages to support the zip line tour/ride. The retail area could include a small office, welcome area, outfitting pavilions, and gear storage area.
4. Group Initiatives and Team Building: The Concessionaire would offer portable team-building elements and activities led by trained facilitators. This would be available for larger groups and corporations through a reservation system. Programs would last from 1 to 3 hours and be tailored to meet the education and developmental needs of the group.
5. Climbing Walls, Aerial Trekking and High Ropes Course: The Concessionaire may consider building a pole-based aerial trekking course should market research indicate the desire for one.

The entire project area would encompass approximately 196 acres. Some adjustments to the existing nearby parking areas would be made to increase capacity. Presently, the EA is anticipated to address the following resource areas: biological resources; cultural resources; air quality; and land use/recreation. Reclamation invites the public to send in comments regarding any other issues and concerns that should be addressed in this EA.

PUBLIC SCOPING INPUT

To be most helpful, comments should be as specific as possible and sent to Reclamation at the above address, Attention: Ms. Sandra Eto, email seto@usbr.gov, or faxogram to 623-773-6486, no later than April 27, 2012. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review upon request. Individuals who submit comments may request that we withhold their home address from public disclosure, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold a person's identity from public disclosure, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, please state this prominently at the beginning of your

comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Eto of the Environmental Resource Management Division at 623-773-6254. Thank you for your interest in this project.

Attachment

Figure 1. General vicinity and project area, Zip Line Tour/Ride Concession, Lake Pleasant Regional Park, Maricopa and Yavapai Counties, Arizona

