

**GENERAL OR TEXT COMMENTS**

#	Page	Source	Comment	Suggested Action
1	General Comment OR Identify a specific page number	Name of Person Making the Comment	Summary of the specific comment	Identification of the recommended action
2	General Comment/Camping	Gerald Bolt	For my potential usage, this park will be a fabulous addition to the myriad of recreation opportunities offered throughout our wonderful state. I am however, considerably disappointed that no provision is made for camping modalities other than tent camping. Facilities similar to Usury and McDowell Parks would be a marvelous addition to the proposed amenities of Peralta. I would be most appreciative if further thought would be given to this concept. Thank you.	This item was discussed at length at several working group meetings. The consensus was that it was better to limit use to no RV's for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep the camping and use experience as "remote"/"primitive" as possible.</li> <li>• Minimize the amount of additional road improvements both internal and external to the development.</li> <li>• Simplify the park management (ie. No need to distinguish what size of RV is acceptable)</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
3	General Comment	Patrick Kell	Kent, it looks great upon first scan. Along with mountain bike access, I really like the focus on rock climbing and dark sky designation, and maintaining biological integrity.  One minor edit for consistency - when spelling out IMBA, it is spelled as International Mountain Bicycling Association, instead of International Mountain Bike Association (the 'B' in IMBA is spelled out as Bicycling, not Bike or Bicycle)	Suggested change made.
4	Peralta Road/Dust Issues	Kathleen Audette	I quickly read the proposal and didn't find any plans to reduce the increase dust produced by increased traffic. Blowing dust is a health hazard. Is there any chance you can point out where this information is in this document. Thank you	This was addressed in Goal 2, Objective 2.1
5	Page 5	Elizabeth Butler	<i>I do not think that the County should define a "goal and objective" of working with one specific entity which represents one type of park user. IMBA is not even a local organization. I do not think that it is appropriate for the County to appear to engage in user favoritism.</i>	Suggested changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove references in Goals and Objectives of any specific user group or partner.</li> <li>• Partnership section added on page 21.</li> </ul>

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6	Page 5	Elizabeth Butler	<i>As noted on Page 16, the "Gold Canyon Trail System" is "not recognized as legal." I do not think that the County should act in any way that could be interpreted as legitimizing any illegal trails anywhere. On page 16 there is an example, and I am familiar with other examples, of mountain bicyclists creating illegal trails and then getting those illegal trails recognized as legal. In my opinion, creating illegal trails is terrible user behavior and should not be rewarded by legitimizing those illegally created trails. I cannot believe that the County would condone a user group illegally creating trails on County owned or administered land. Therefore, it is my opinion that this illegal trail system should not be mentioned anywhere in the Peralta RP Plan. If, as suggested on Page 16, the trail system becomes included in the ASLD concept plan for the area that will be the appropriate time for Pinal County to consider how that system may link to Peralta RP.</i>	Based on discussions within the working group, the language describing the "Gold Canyon Trail System" was modified, including approved language from the Arizona State Land Department.
7	Page 7	Elizabeth Butler	Include opportunities for education about the site, the natural desert, uses at the site and other information that promotes responsible public stewardship, by all users, of the site; <i>Remove the comma following "users."</i>	Suggested change made.
8	Page 7	Elizabeth Butler	Identify future park acquisition opportunities which <i>Remove the extra space before "which."</i>	Suggested change made.
9	Page 8	Elizabeth Butler	<i>I do not think that the County should define a "goal and objective" of working with one specific entity which represents one type of user group. IMBA is not even a local organization. I do not think that it is appropriate for the County to appear to engage in user favoritism.</i>	See comment #5 above.
10	Page 9, Map	Elizabeth Butler	<i>I would like to see the proposed roads to the car/tent camping areas on this map.</i>	Suggested change made to Map #1 and Map #4.
11	Page 9, Map	Elizabeth Butler	<i>Often, only hikers are allowed on Interpretive Trails. If this will be the case, then it would be nice to connect the BM trails which intersect the Interpretive Trail at approximately 1:00 and 7:30 with a trail for bicyclists and equestrians.</i>	Working group decided to leave trails as presented to minimize newly developed trail segments. Suggested changes made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarification made to info presented on Interpretive trail, trail width, surface, signage etc.</li> </ul>

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12	Page 10, Objective 2.6	Elizabeth Butler	Objective 2.6: Provide equestrian step over bars along the south and north boundary fence. <i>I recommend a step over gate on the east boundary fence.</i>	No change made. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is not a current existing trail or two track on the east boundary, adding a step over or gate at this location would promote trail user traffic into previously undisturbed desert habitat.</li> <li>• Creating another access point also increases the amount of management and operations oversight needed (ie, iron ranger, signage etc)</li> </ul>
13	Page 10	Elizabeth Butler	Include opportunities for education about the site, the natural desert, uses at the site and other information that promotes responsible public stewardship, by all users, of the site. <i>Remove the comma following "users."</i>	Suggested change made.
14	Page 11	Elizabeth Butler	Objective 4.2: Develop a camping and picnic ramada reservation system. <i>I would like the objective to state that the reservation system will be online.</i>	Language added for clarity, an online option will be explored.
15	Page 11	Elizabeth Butler	Objective 4.3: Create all trails for non-motorized, multi-use hiking, mountain biking, horse riding that <i>Remove the extra spaces before the words "for" and "that."</i>	Suggested change made.
16	Page 11	Elizabeth Butler	Objective 4.5: Design at least one large picnic and camping area to accommodate large family gatherings. <i>Unless the intent is that only families can use the large picnic and camping areas, remove the word "family."</i>	Changed "family" to "group".
17	Page 11	Elizabeth Butler	Objective 5.1: Explore future opportunities to expand the park boundary to include the peak area identified in Map #2 as a destination hiking/biking location. <i>Equestrians should be able to access the peak area.</i>	Wording changed to more generic "trail users". Ultimate users will be determined during the design and build stages of implementation.
18	Page 13	Elizabeth Butler	The large area group camping and shaded picnic areas would be opportunities for larger family gatherings, <i>Unless the intent is that only families can use the group picnic and camping areas, remove the word "family."</i>	See comment # 16

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19	Page 13	Elizabeth Butler	The proximity of this site to the Superstition Wilderness provides a great location for a “jumping off” point for multi-day excursions into the Wilderness. <i>I don't see any reason for the limitation to “multi-day” excursions and would remove that qualification.</i>	Suggested change made.
20	Page 14	Elizabeth Butler	Peralta Regional Park will offer a unique relaxed day use picnic opportunity within close proximity to the greater Phoenix metro population. <b>No similar use can be found close by the dense urban area.</b> <i>The statement in bold is completely RIDICULOUS! Both Usery and San Tan, and I assume most of the other Maricopa County Parks, have picnic areas. How preposterous to think that Peralta RP would provide the only 'mountain park' picnic opportunity close to Phoenix!</i>	This section was re-worded to add clarity.
21	Page 14	Elizabeth Butler	An introductory climbing area for beginners and sport climbers will be a distinct and <b>unique</b> recreation opportunity offered by the County <b>within the greater Phoenix metro area.</b> <i>I am not a rock climber but a quick search for rock climbing in the Phoenix area revealed A LOT of opportunities so I suspect that this claim is as ridiculous as the one about picnicking. I suggest contacting someone who knows about rock climbing so that Pinal County doesn't make fools of ourselves by a claiming “an introductory climbing area for beginners” that is “unique ... within the greater Phoenix metro area” which seems very possibly to be untrue.</i>	This section was re-worded to add clarity.
22	Page 16	Elizabeth Butler	Acquisition of the small parcel would offer the opportunity to provide a scenic “destination” peak for hikers and cyclists. <i>Equestrians should be able to access the peak area.</i>	See Comment #17.
23	General, several places	County Staff	Re-label and identify the east TH for the Lost Goldmine Trail as “Lost Goldmine East TH”	Suggested change made.
24	General	Tim Kristof, Manager Lost Dutchman SP	In your final master plan I would designate a helipad area for the possible rescues from nearby activities. We recently placed on within the park to assist Pinal County Sheriff Office Search & Rescue with hiking/medical issues in the nearby Tonto National Forest. So metimes many fire engines will be necessary for a rescue plus ambulances. Just a thought. I know it is in preliminary stages.	Language was added to the draft Master Plan to indicate development of a working relationship with the County Sherriff's Office getting guidance on their needs for any Search and Rescue operations.

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25	General	Joanne Stein	I recently moved to Gold Canyon, and was disappointed to learn that there aren't any grassy dog parks in the area. Can you tell me if a dog park will be included in the Peralta Park plan?	Working group felt that this was not the proper location for a dog park due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primitive location of the park</li> <li>• Small size of the park, lack of infrastructure</li> <li>• Did not fit in with the vision of the park.</li> </ul>
26	General	Lina Austin (via phone)	RV's, especially smaller units, should be allowed for camping.	See comment #1
27	General	David Ochs	Great job on putting together this draft plan. I think it has features and amenities that will attract many people. The trail system looks really good. Question: Does the map show the route cars would take to get to the car camping areas? Would it be an undeveloped (dirt) road originating from the parking area????	See comment #10
28	General	Barb Houck	Thank you, Kent. I've been studying it. Everything is so well covered.	
29	General	AZGFD	See attached	Incorporated and modified language as appropriate for this planning document.
			Comments below came in after September 10, 2015 Working Group meeting	
30	Page 19	Michael Weasner	On page 19 in the PHASING and SCHEDULE section, exploring "what is required for a dark-sky designation by the International Dark-sky Association" is mentioned for a future phase. I strongly recommend that this be done at the beginning of the Park development planning to ensure that all work done in each of the incremental phases would be compliant to support the IDA designation. Otherwise, additional funds might need to be expended at a later date to correct something that would prevent receiving the designation.  Information on the International Dark-Sky Association "Parks and Protected Areas Program" is available at:  <a href="http://darksky.org/our-work/parks-and-protected-areas/">http://darksky.org/our-work/parks-and-protected-areas/</a>	Modified language. County staff will begin exploring this designation and folding the concepts into the park planning process as soon as the master plan is complete, in partnership with BLM and the International Dark-Sky Association.
31	General	Nick Lund	please let Kent know that we fully support the proposed Peralta Regional Park in AJ	No action needed

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32	General	Christine Hill	<p>I have lived in Peralta Trails for 10 years. We were never made aware of any park or recreational property when we purchased our home. The proposal for a park takes campers, horse trailers, motorcycles and RV's right past the elementary school causing traffic congestion, safety for those children and the buses, dirt flying in the air to cause breathing problems for those with asthma, traffic issues for the rest of us trying to get into and out of our homes, safety issues with the police and fire departments, the extra burden of the Renaissance Festival (8 weeks) and the marathons held here (qualifier for the Boston Marathon). There are proposed additional subdivisions that are to be built here and down that same road. The HOA person on the committee does not represent those who live here. The fact that you are putting all of these sessions in before the "Winter Visitors" come back is a real issue to most of them. Many are here those winter months that all of this will be open. The HOA took no vote on this. They did take a vote on the ATV use here and we have never heard if it passed or not. We assume it did not and they will try again. The financial issue of maintenance was glossed over in your previous presentation by "this is a proposal and can be changed." Apache Junction already has a wilderness park, why can't you leave the wilderness alone? Are you afraid some other jurisdiction will take it if you don't? Is the rancher trying to create a profitable business in there and this attracts people to that facility? Just because some committee wants to force this does not make it good for the rest of us.</p>	<p>The Open Space and Trails Master Plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2007 and the Comprehensive Plan in 2009. Each of these planning documents identified this location as a "future regional park".</p> <p>Traffic issues on Peralta Road are addressed in Goal 2, Objective 2.1.</p>

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33	General	Unknown	<p>While your current work on Peralta Regional Park is commendable, it is unfortunately misdirected. The area currently identified within the park boundaries (hereafter referred to as PRP1) is certainly an area worthy of protection but should not be the area that is first targeted for protection. The area most in need of immediate protection is the area encompassing the existing Lost Goldmine Trail and the Gold Canyon Trail System (hereafter referred to as PRP2). Here's why: 1) Because PRP2 immediately borders existing development it currently experiences a much higher degree of use than PRP1. And unfortunately experiences much more degradation particularly due to high impact users including off-road motor vehicle users, hunters, etc. 2) Also, because of the proximity of PRP2 to existing development it is more likely to be the target of immediate future development - probably much more so than PRP1. 3) All the trails in PRP1 do not currently exist and would need to be built and continually maintained thereby increasing not only the initial cost of the project but also the continuing maintenance costs. However, all of the trails in PRP2 have already been built and continuing development and maintenance of the trails is performed entirely by unpaid volunteer members of the hiking, mountain biking and equestrian communities. 4) While the existing plan seems to recognize the incredible potential of the PRP2 area - "Connecting from Peralta RP to the Lost Goldmine Trail and the Gold Canyon Trail System ... will create a remarkable and world-class outdoor recreation opportunity" it then dismisses any attempt at immediate PRP2 protection as something that may or may not happen, at some unknown point in the future, if somebody else does something - "when/if it is recognized by ASLD." Huh? There is a serious disconnect here. The plan developers seem to recognize that the real jewel in this area is PRP2 but then neglect to even mention how they plan to move ahead with protection for this area in the future. By all means work on PRP1 area protection if you must. But clearly, the more urgent goal is to focus your resources immediately on protection of the PRP2 area.</p>	<p>Future park expansion opportunities are identified within the planning document. Also, the Gold Canyon Trail System is addressed on page 16. Other recreation opportunity development and/or conservation/preservation of lands identified as "proposed open space" in the 2007 Open Space and Trails Master Plan would be part of future planning exercises.</p>

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34	International Dark Sky Association		<p>On behalf of the International Dark-Sky Association and our over 300 Arizona members, I write in support of the creation of Peralta Regional Park and the inclusion of language relating to dark skies in its draft Master Plan. The emphasis on dark skies at Peralta is consistent with the values and desires of the public solicited as part of the drafting of the County's Open Space and Trails Master Plan in 2006-07. Parks and protected areas that are adjacent to large urban centers yet whose nighttime environment remains relatively undisturbed are increasingly rare, and efforts undertaken now to conserve the natural darkness remaining in these places will pay great ecological dividends in the future. In addition, parks that act to care for their dark night skies offer a novel recreation opportunity to visitors and contribute to the development of the local tourism infrastructure. We therefore applaud Pinal County for considering the value of dark skies conservation at the inception of this new Regional Park.</p> <p>Our only concern about the draft Master Plan for the Peralta is that consideration of possible certification under our International Dark Sky Places Program is slated for the future ("Phasing and Schedule," p. 19). By deferring this study to an indefinite time in the future, the County potentially loses a main benefit of identifying the priority of protecting dark skies at the foundation of the Park. We encourage the Park leadership to adopt a quality outdoor lighting management plan early in the process of defining the Park's operational policies. Adopting such a plan will ensure that any outdoor lighting installed at the site is compliant with IDA requirements by design, thereby removing a significant obstacle to eligibility as a future IDA Dark Sky Park. We will gladly consult with Park staff and management on the particulars of a lighting plan and help them to make the best possible choices with respect to outdoor lighting that creates a safe environment for visitors while minimizing the impact to night sky quality.</p>	<p>Modified language. County staff will begin exploring this designation and folding the concepts into the park planning process as soon as the master plan is complete, in partnership with BLM and the International Dark-Sky Association.</p>

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	General	Sue Schaffer	<p>WOW, you guys are amazing, Your master plan draft is well thought out, extremely comprehensive, and accurate to my memory. Kudos to you for your dedication to the process. When I was reading this, I could see and feel the possibilities and I hope that your public meetings have been successful.</p> <p>I had not had anything to add from all your reports and plans, the only thing I saw was that on objective 2.6 while it would be nice to have step overs, there are current grazing permits on both sections of ASTL, and in a voice for the ranchers, I think there would need to be a different gate system. Cows can step over those as well.</p>	Modified language
			The comment below came during the Open Space and Trails Advisory Commission Meeting of October 13, 2015 and were reflected in the motion to "recommend approval" to the Board of Supervisors.	
35	17	Open Space and Trails Advisory Commission	Remove section titled "Adjacent Trail System" from the report.	Section was removed.