

**PALO VERDE REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN
WORKING GROUP MEETING #1
November 12, 2015, 12:30 PM
Location: Maricopa Library**

Attending:

Kelly Wolff-Krauter	Arizona Game and Fish
Skip Varney	Arizona State Parks
Anthony Smith	Pinal County Supervisor
Gina D'Abella	Pinal County Open Space and Trails Advisory Commission
Mary Johnson	Pinal County Open Space and Trails Advisory Commission
Kent Taylot	Pinal County Open Space and Trails
Evan Balmer	Pinal County Planning
Harry Grizzle	Pinal County Sheriff's Office
Barbara Brady	Pinal Partnership Western Regional Open Space and Trails
Gary Metievier	User Group, Shooting
Dave Wilson	EPG
Michael Park	EPG

Summary:

1. Project Overview:

- a. Kent Taylor and Mike Park described the primary project objectives and the purpose of this initial meeting.
- b. Kent gave an overview of the BLM cooperative management agreement process.
- c. Gina D'Abella presented the general materials included in a report done by the Western Pinal County Open Space Initiative Group. The group prepared an initial evaluation and concept plan for the Palo Verde Regional Park Area. Gina indicated they would make their report available to EPG.
- d. Mike Park presented the project schedule, which indicates a timeline of approximately 12 months.

2. Resource Map Review:

- a. Mike Park presented 13 resource boards and asked for input from the stakeholders, which included the following discussion:
 - i. There is an area that has been used for firearm target shooting for what was described as decades. There is public interest to have shooting sports considered in the master plan study.
 - ii. There was a concern expressed regarding the impacts of the noise associated with the shooting activities.
 - iii. It was also mentioned that there are hunting interests in the area.

- iv. It was mentioned that the project study area should not be limited by the county line even though that is the west side of the park boundary. Pinal County has no jurisdiction beyond the county line. In previous conversations, the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation did not have interest in establishing recreational facilities in this remote area of Maricopa County. However, the study will consider general impacts and opportunities associated with influences from the areas west of the study area.
- v. The team will review the data available in the BLM Resource Management Plan, particularly the Travel Management Plan.
- vi. For the recreational use evaluation task, EPG will research both past and future recreational activities that may be considered for possible activities to be included in the programming of the park's recreational activities.
- vii. Arizona Game and Fish may have a more current data set for wildlife mapping. The team will research this data source.
- viii. The Army Corp of Engineers has data that indicates sensitive wildlife areas in Maricopa County. The team will research if similar data is available for this project area.
- ix. There was discussion regarding the scheduling and location for the first public meeting. It was suggested to offer the presentation twice, one at 4:00 pm and a second at about 6:00 pm. This would allow for early and late attenders to get a chance to hear the same information. Outside of the presentation overview, the intent is to have an open forum meeting format.
- x. The Thunderbird Community center was suggested as a possible meeting location for a future public meeting, which would be convenient for the folks from Hidden Valley.
- xi. There was some discussion regarding the value of advertising the public meetings on the Irrigation District's billing. The team would take this into consideration.

3. Next Steps:

- a. Prepare for the first public meeting on or about December 10, 2016.