



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Southern Nevada District Office
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89130
<http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/lvfo.1.html>

JUL 21 2009

In Reply Refer To:
(NVS0052) 1210

NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED ACTION
LANDS OF THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM
NORTH MCCULLOUGH WILDERNESS

To Whom It May Concern:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is required to inform all affected or interested persons or organizations about any proposed action or unauthorized activity occurring within BLM Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas. The BLM is proposing a Trails Master Plan within Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area (NCA) to address recreation guidelines which call for the planning and development of a sustainable, low-impact trail system.

Background

Residential and urban development near or adjacent to Sloan Canyon NCA has increased dramatically in the last 20 years. The greater Las Vegas Valley and Clark County both experienced average annual population growth rates in excess of 5% for the period 1990-2008. For the period 1990-2004, the City of Henderson experienced an average annual population growth rate in excess of 9%. Future population projections for these three entities suggest that population growth will continue at similar (but slightly lower) rates through 2030.

Current visitation to the NCA is estimated at 28,500 visitors annually. As regional population growth and surrounding development occurs and as Sloan Canyon NCA becomes better known, visitation is expected to increase even without the development of additional visitor facilities. If the recent growth rates in the region remain constant, it is estimated that annual visitation to the NCA would approach 75,000 visitors by 2030.

Location

North McCullough Wilderness

- Township 23S, Range 61E, Sections 33-36
- Township 24S, Range 61E, Sections 1-4, 9-11

Proposed Action

The Trails Master Plan is necessary to comply with the Recreation management direction outlined in the Approved Sloan Canyon Resource Management Plan (RMP). Specifically, the

Trails Master Plan would address recreation guidelines which call for the systematic planning and development of a sustainable, low-impact trail system that accommodates multiple non-motorized uses by utilizing a combination of new trails, existing roads and right-of-ways, and reconstruction of unauthorized routes and social trails.

The Trails Master Plan project would provide a framework for developing trail-related recreation and interpretive opportunities, which would be used by NCA neighbors, residents of the greater Las Vegas Valley, and out-of-area visitors. Additionally, a designated trail system near the more populated boundaries would help to alleviate some resource impacts and abuses occurring in the NCA. Informal access and use in some front country areas within the NCA have resulted in resource damage, numerous social trails, and illegal uses such as shooting, off-highway vehicle use, and trash dumping.

The primary objectives of the Sloan Canyon Trails Master Plan are to:

- Establish sustainable non-motorized access to areas of interest within the NCA.
- Provide recreational opportunities that meet the expectations of hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking groups and other non-motorized trail users.
- Plan and manage for future recreation use and demand levels
- Ensure that trail-related recreation disturbances are minimized
- Provide interpretive opportunities consistent with the Sloan Canyon Act
- Provide connectivity to regional trails systems and proposed developed areas, such as the Sloan Canyon Visitor's Center.

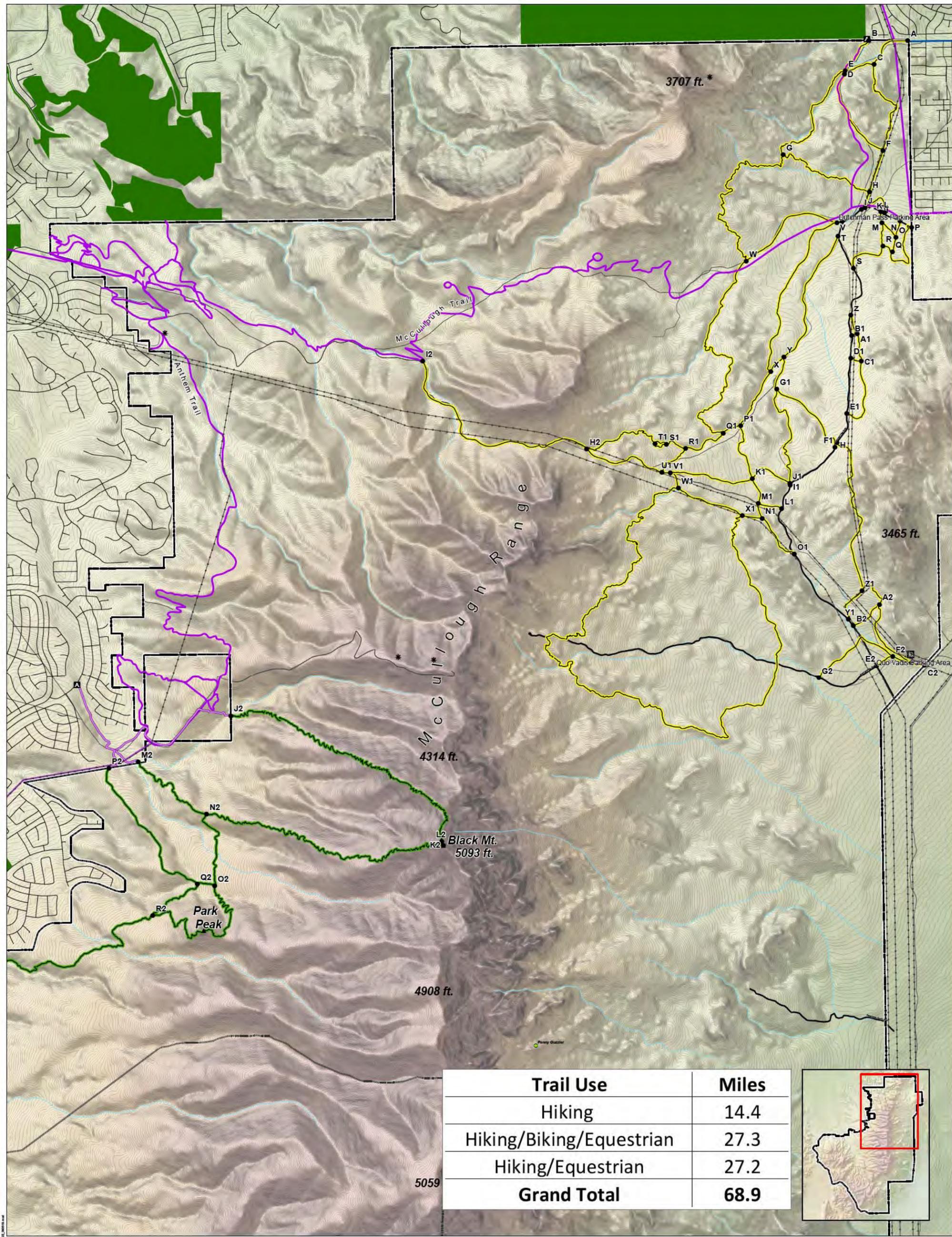
Please submit comments to the District Manager for consideration and use in evaluating and processing the proposed action at the address below. Alternately, comments may be sent to lvwilderness@nv.blm.gov. All comments must be received by the closing date of this comment period on August 24, 2009. A decision on the proposed action is anticipated for September 2009, with an implementation date of October 2009. If you have any questions regarding this notification please contact Sendi Kalcic, Wilderness Planner at 702-515-5297.

Sincerely,



Mary Jo Rugwell
District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Southern Nevada District Office
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89130

Enclosures:
Maps of Proposed Locations



Trail Use	Miles
Hiking	14.4
Hiking/Biking/Equestrian	27.3
Hiking/Equestrian	27.2
Grand Total	68.9



LEGEND

Sloan Canyon NCA

- ★ Communication Towers
- ▲ Peaks
- Dripping Springs Cave
- Wildlife Guzzlers
- Ⓐ Sloan Canyon NCA Access Points
- Ⓜ Visitor Center
- Ⓜ Proposed Trailheads

Existing NCA Roads

- Existing NCA Roads
- Existing Streets
- Wash Trail
- Transmission Lines
- Intermittent Streams

Henderson Open Space & Trails Plan

- Primary Trails
- Primary Trails (Proposed)
- Secondary Trails
- Secondary Trails (Proposed)
- Henderson to Sloan Canyon Access
- Henderson Parks and Open Space

Proposed Trail Network

Trail Use

- Hiking
- Hiking/Biking/Equestrian
- Hiking/Equestrian
- Final Alignment Pending NDOW Review

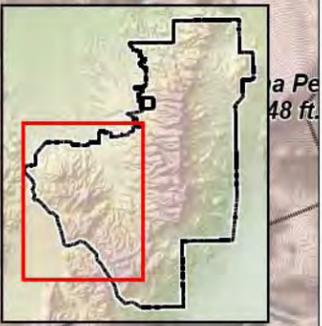
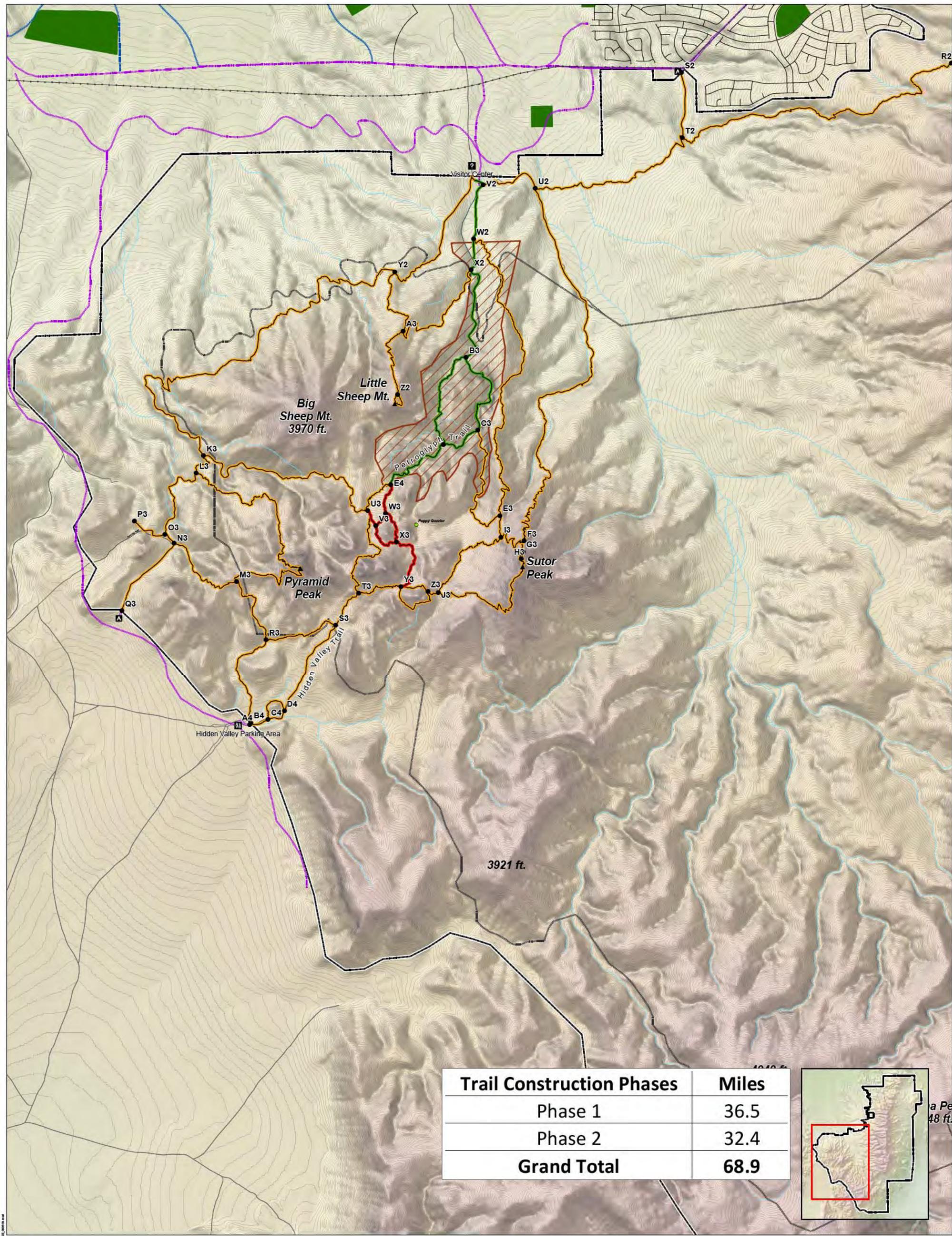
Sloan Canyon NCA Boundary

- Sloan Canyon NCA Boundary
- North McCullough Wilderness
- Petroglyph Management Area

0 0.5 1 Miles

JUNE 2009 EDWARDS & KELCEY

Sloan Canyon
National Conservation Area
Trails Master Plan



- LEGEND**
- Sloan Canyon NCA**
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 - ▭ Sloan Canyon NCA Boundary
 - ▭ North McCullough Wilderness
 - ▭ Petroglyph Management Area
- Henderson Open Space & Trails Plan**
- Primary Trails
 - Primary Trails (Proposed)
 - Secondary Trails
 - Secondary Trails (Proposed)
 - Henderson to Sloan Canyon Access
 - ▭ Henderson Parks and Open Space
- Proposed Trail Network**
- Trail Construction Phases**
- Phase 1
 - Phase 2
 - Final Alignment Pending NDOW Review