What is the Cottonwood Valley Recreation Area?

The Cottonwood Valley Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) describes a 23,289 acre area of Red Rock Canyon NCA that includes the NCA-managed land south of Bonnie Springs Ranch, west of SR 159 not including the town of Blue Diamond, and south of SR 160. The planning area does not include any of the Rainbow Mountain Wilderness.

It contains:

- 66.85 miles of known trail
- 34.9 miles of known designated trail
- 31.95 miles of known unauthorized trail
- Four designated trailheads

Why is this action needed?

Current recreation management actions in the Cottonwood Valley trails system are taking place without a detailed, long term, comprehensive plan in place. Recreation use in the Cottonwood Valley trails system is increasing and there is a need to guide future infrastructure development and provide management direction for recreation resources within the trail system to address public demand.

What are the project goals?

The purpose of developing a RAMP for the Cottonwood Valley trails system is to provide long-term vision and commitment for improved day-use recreational activities, focusing specifically on hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking within the area. By improving these opportunities, visitors to the trails system would have adequate infrastructure to facilitate better recreational experiences, resulting in a highly valued quality-of-life recreational amenity within proximity to the urban center of Las Vegas. Proactive planning will help prevent future conflicts and resource impacts by providing a trail system that can accommodate and support the current and anticipated future level of recreational use in this area.

What are some of the specific issues that need to be addressed?

- Proliferation of unauthorized trails
- Increased visitation
- Manage for new modes of recreation
- Damage to sensitive resources
- Trail Sustainability
- Redundant trails and unclear signage
- Manage for visitor expectations
- Crowding and traffic concerns in Blue Diamond and throughout the trail network

What are the proposed plan components?

The proposed RAMP would include several components designed to address the current issues within, and the future needs of visitors to, the planning area, including:

- Consider closing and restoring some unauthorized trails
- Consider designating/adopting some unauthorized trails
- Add official signage to trail network
- Add amenities to Late Night, Red Valley, and Cottonwood trailheads
    → Consider new trailheads or dispersed camping areas
- Build partnerships for trail maintenance and monitoring
- Evaluate new trail proposals, particularly in the area south of SR 160
- Consider e-bikes as an allowable use on the non-motorized trails

What else should we consider?

Red Rock needs your help identifying plan components. **Your input is crucial for making sure the management plan meets *your* expectations.**

We are looking for specific input like:

- Addressing unique user interests
- Designating specific uses on some trails
- Where new trailheads and parking areas are needed
- Ideas on how to balance equestrian, hiking, mountain biking, and OHV within the Cottonwood Valley area
- New trail ideas
- Identifying what the desired user experience is for specific trails and throughout the Cottonwood Valley as a whole

Where do I send my comments?

Send your comments to the following email address:
BLM_SNDO_RR_CottonwoodRamp@blm.gov

Comments will be accepted until March 22nd, 2021.