



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Phoenix District  
Hassayampa Field Office  
21605 North 7th Avenue  
Phoenix, Arizona 85027  
[www.blm.gov/az/](http://www.blm.gov/az/)



In Reply Refer To:  
1614 (P010)  
Harquahala

DEC 3 0 2014

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Hassayampa Field Office requests your participation in a public process to gather input for the Harquahala Mountains Wilderness Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (EA). This plan will provide long-term management guidance for wilderness use over the next twenty years or until a substantial change warrants a new plan. This plan will also address adjacent access areas such as the Harquahala Back Country Byway, staging/parking areas, and support facilities. Please see enclosed map.

Section 4 of the Wilderness Act states: "Wilderness areas shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use." Our plan will deal with several important issues, including preservation of wilderness character, use and enjoyment of these areas, and management of existing uses.

The purpose of this effort is to initiate the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental analysis in order to implement decisions specific to the Harquahala Mountains Wilderness in accordance with the Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan (April 2010) and Wilderness Guidance.

Wilderness issues and suggestions will be identified through this public scoping process. In addition, the staff of the Hassayampa Field Office identified areas of concern and would like your input. Here is a subset of questions the BLM needs to consider, and we hope to gain the insight of users and capture additional input from this public process:

- How do you use this area?
- Is one hiking trail, the Harquahala Pack Trail, sufficient?
- How best do we address human waste issues at the summit near the Harquahala Observatory and at campsites?
- What other access points do you use? Do you want these areas to have facilities, and if so what type of facilities?
- Do you see additional facilities detracting from the wilderness area and from your desired level of expectation?

- What amenities are needed for equestrian use?
- Would the use of packing burros and other hooved animals be allowed to enhance the recreation experience?
- What are your suggestions on how best to manage night light?

Two meetings will be held to provide you with the opportunity to meet with BLM staff members and discuss your ideas and concerns about planning. The times and places are:

Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Sun City West

14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd

Sun City West, AZ 85375

Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Buckeye Community Center

201 East Centre Avenue

Buckeye, AZ 85326

You can make a difference by providing us with your ideas, comments, or concerns about the proposed project. The BLM will accept your input from January 28, 2015 through February 28, 2015. There are three ways in which you can submit your comments on the proposed project:

- Mail: Harquahala Mtns Wilderness Plan, ATTN: Mary Skordinsky BLM Hassayampa Field Office, 21605 North 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85027.
- Fax: Mary Skordinsky at 623-580-5580.
- Email: [mskordin@blm.gov](mailto:mskordin@blm.gov)

If you have any question about this project, please contact Mary Skordinsky, Hassayampa Field Office Recreation Specialist at 623-580-5586 or [mskordin@blm.gov](mailto:mskordin@blm.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Rem Hawes  
Field Manager

Enclosure