



News Release

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Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge 1611 North Second Avenue, Ajo, AZ 85321

For Immediate Release

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Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge and the Barry M. Goldwater Range East Extends the Public Comment Period on Proposes Visitor Use Changes in the Childs Valley and Childs Mountain Regions

Interested Parties:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is extending the public comment period to **November 1, 2016** on proposed visitor use changes in the **non-wilderness** sections of the Childs Valley and Childs Mountain regions within Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) and Barry M. Goldwater Range East (BMGR-E).

For further clarification, all proposed changes in visitor use are located within the **non-wilderness** area of the Childs Valley and Childs Mountain regions; with the exception of changes to the use of stock animals in the refuge. Currently, stock animals are “restricted to traveling only on administrative trails, dry washes, and along the base of mountain ranges”. The proposed change will allow stock animals to travel throughout the refuge, with the exception of the Childs Mountain Road.

Specifically, the Service is proposing the following (number in parentheses indicates intersection numbers)¹:

- Copper Canyon Road (716 to 127):
 - Bicyclists would be allowed in groups of 10 or less. Bicycles must remain on designated roads. Groups greater than 10 would require a refuge Special Use Permit (SUP).
 - Motorized vehicles would be allowed in groups of 4 or less vehicles. Vehicles must remain on the road at all times, have high clearance and 4WD. Groups greater than 4 vehicles would require a refuge SUP.
- Chico Shunie Road (717 to 601):
 - Bicyclists would be allowed in groups of 10 or less. Bicycles must remain on designated roads. Groups greater than 10 would require a refuge SUP.
 - Camping would not be allowed within ½ mile of the historic Chico Shunie Village site.
- San Antonio Mica Mine Road (718):
 - Bicyclists would be allowed in groups of 10 or less. Bicycles must remain on designated roads. Groups greater than 10 would require a refuge SUP.
- Childs Valley Road to Charlie Bell Road (720A to 126):
 - Bicyclists would be allowed in groups of 10 or less. Bicycles must remain on designated roads. Groups greater than 10 would require a refuge SUP.

- Cameron Charco Road (720A to 720B):
 - Bicyclists would be allowed in groups of 10 or less. Bicycles must remain on designated roads. Groups greater than 10 would require a refuge SUP.
 - Because this section of the road provides connectivity between BLM Road 8114 from Lime Hill to Cameron Charco, vehicle parties of 10 or less would be allowed. Vehicles must remain on the road at all times, have high clearance and 4WD.

Childs Mountain:

The Service and BMGR-E are considering the following changes to the Childs Mountain Road west of the Childs Mountain administrative gate¹:

- Pedestrians would be allowed.
- Bicyclists would be allowed in groups of 10 or less. Bicycles must remain on designated roads. Groups greater than 10 would require a refuge SUP.
- Motorized vehicles and the use of stock animals would not be allowed.

Stock Animals:

Stock animals; defined as domestic horses, mules, or donkeys; are currently restricted to traveling only on administrative trails, dry washes, and along the base of the mountain ranges on the refuge. The Service is considering the following change to the use of stock animals on the refuge:

- Stock animals would be allowed to travel throughout the refuge, with the exception of the Childs Mountain Road, in groups of 4 or less animals, with a refuge SUP, and under the following conditions:
 - Grazing or use of wildlife waters by stock animals would not be allowed.
 - All stock animals would be fed weed free feed 3 or more days prior to entering and while on the refuge.

The Service and BMGR-East are currently in the scoping phase of this action. Comments provided on the proposed action will be used to develop a National Environmental Policy Act document and assist in determining the course of action. Please provide your comments either in writing to the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, 1611 North Second Avenue, Ajo, Arizona 85321 or electronically at Mary.Kralovec@fws.gov by **November 1, 2016**.

¹See attached map for administrative trails and intersection numbers.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 544 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Cabeza Prieta NWR

Proposed New Visitor Uses

