

Ten X Campground Expansion

Proposed Action

Background Information:

Ten X Campground (Ten X) was originally constructed in the early 1970's which offered the Grand Canyon National park (GCNP) going tourists and locals a location to camp. Ten X offers a relaxed camping opportunity away from the busyness of the GCNP with well-spaced sites surrounded by natural vegetation, wildlife, and mature ponderosa pine trees which offer shade during the heat of the summer months. The campground is located 5 miles south of the entrance to GNCP with most visitation tied to GCNP visits.

Since the development of Ten X, there have been minor updates. Ten X Campground is the northern most developed campground on the South Zone of the Kaibab National Forest (NF). Occupancy levels at the campground are close to maximum capacity from Memorial Day to Labor Day, with visitors being turned away frequently during those months. Frequent visitor conflicts arise from visitors attempting to camp in the areas between sites and walk-in visitors attempting to take reserved sites. Larger RV's consistently become stuck or attempt to park in the wrong direction on sites causing resource damage and potential for incident if evacuation is needed. This, combined with the scheduled decommissioning of two private campgrounds in the area, indicates that the demand will far outweigh the available supply of camping opportunities.

Existing Conditions:

Currently Ten X Campground has 70 individual campsites with a variety of site designs; pull up sites, pull through sites, and each varies in size. Dispersed through these sites are 6 bathroom buildings; 5 double stall units and a single handicap accessible unit. There are 2 large group sites that can accommodate up to 75 people each with group pavilions, large fire rings, and each has its own double stall bathroom building. Travel within Ten X is limited to a single one-way road, posing a safety concern in the event of an evacuation. In the early 1970's, a gravity fed, underground water system was installed; the 40,000 gallon tank supplies water to 12 hydrants throughout the campground. At the time of the campgrounds development, power lines were not a viable element.

Due to the location of Ten X, there are an abundance of adjacent recreation activities including visiting the Grand Canyon, whether it is for hiking or to see the vast extent. Within the Town of Tusayan, there are a multitude of guided tour opportunities. On the Kaibab NF, recreation includes the Arizona National Scenic Trail (AZNST) that runs next to the eastern extent of the campgrounds' current foot print along with extensive hiking and mountain biking trails.

Desired Conditions:

Desired Conditions for Recreation and Scenery (LRMP Pg. 63)

- The Kaibab NF provides sustainable recreation consistent with public demand. Use levels are compatible with other resource values.
- Conservation education actively engages children and adults resulting in increased forest stewardship, ecological awareness, partnerships, and volunteerism. Information and educational

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programs provide opportunities to connect youth, low-income, and minority populations with nature.

- Visitors have access to information that enriches their recreation experiences and contributes to an understanding of their role in public land stewardship. “Leave No Trace,” “Tread Lightly,” fire prevention, wildlife awareness (e.g. lead reduction, Be Bear Aware, Animal inn, etc.), and archaeological resource protection principles are promoted and practiced by the visiting public.
- Recreation management activities complement and support local economies and tourism.

Desired Conditions for Recreation – Front Country (LRMP Pg. 64)

- Front-country areas provide initial contact points for forest users and developed recreation settings where people can engage in a variety of recreation activities including scenic driving, hiking, camping, picnicking, fishing, and boating. Motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities are available.
- Formal interpretive programs and opportunities for self-guided nature study are provided.
- Developed campgrounds meet the needs of vehicle-based camping. The overall capacity of campgrounds meets demand at high-use seasons including large groups. Artificial and modified natural waters provide opportunities for fishing, picnicking, natural quiet, wildlife viewing, and, in some cases, for camping and boating.

Desired Conditions for Recreation – Developed Recreation Sites (LRMP Pg. 99)

- Developed campgrounds are places where structures and human impacts on vegetation may be seen, but they do not dominate the view or attract attention (low to moderate scenic integrity).
- Human activities in the areas visible from campgrounds (foreground to middle ground, 300 feet to 4 miles) do not attract attention or stand out, and the landscapes appear natural (moderate to high scenic integrity).
- Volunteer hosts are provided at all public sector fee campgrounds.

Objectives for Developed Recreation Sites (LRMP Pg.99)

- Reconstruct or construct at least one-quarter of developed campsites into small group sites within 10 years of plan approval.

Purpose and Need:

There is increased demand for sustainable recreation opportunities on the Tusayan Ranger District of the KNF due to increased visitors at the GNCP. The purpose of this project is to provide front country recreation opportunities for the public by increasing the campsites and amenities available at Ten X Campground.

Proposed Action:

Kaibab NF proposes to remodel the existing campsites and expand the current footprint of Ten X Campground from 70 sites to a total of 300. The remodeling of existing sites would increase the ability to accommodate large RVs, while eliminating parking along the Ten X roadway. The additional 230 sites would be approximately 45% RV pull through, 25% small group sites and 30% individual tent sites. In order to facilitate construction of new camping loops a new roadway would be constructed as a larger loop surrounding the current footprint. The Kaibab NF would add in two egress routes in the form of administrative roads for use in case of an evacuation. The Kaibab NF proposes to develop common areas

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to facilitate visitor interaction by adding ramada structures with more grills, fire rings, picnic tables, and a new amphitheater for campfire talks.

Due to the increase in campsites, the Kaibab NF would develop new host sites to replace the one current host site. These host sites would possibly include black water vaults, concrete pads, electric hook ups, and firewood cages. With the expansion of the campground, there is a possibility to update the current utilities to modern standards including, but not limited to, a new electrical substation and power lines, elevated tanks and new water lines, and the potential for black water vaults for the public.

With the expansion, the Kaibab NF would install a new multilingual entrance station with a non-cash payment option. The Kaibab NF is also interested in a possible interagency visitor center to provide area information as well as the history of the Forest Service, Park Service and surrounding Tribes.

For individuals who want to dive further into nature, the expansion would include new nature/interpretive trails, and as well as a trail connecting the campground to the AZNST and the proposed Tusayan trail system. By connecting the trails to the AZNST and the proposed Town of Tusayan trail system, campers would have the opportunity to hike along the trails, while allowing for hikers and mountain bikers from the trails to have a place to stay.

Design Features and Mitigation Measures:

Applicable Forest Plan direction, best management practices, and Forest Service Manual and Handbook direction would be incorporated in project design and implementation. Design features and mitigation measures applicable to this proposed action would be disclosed in the Environmental Assessment (EA).

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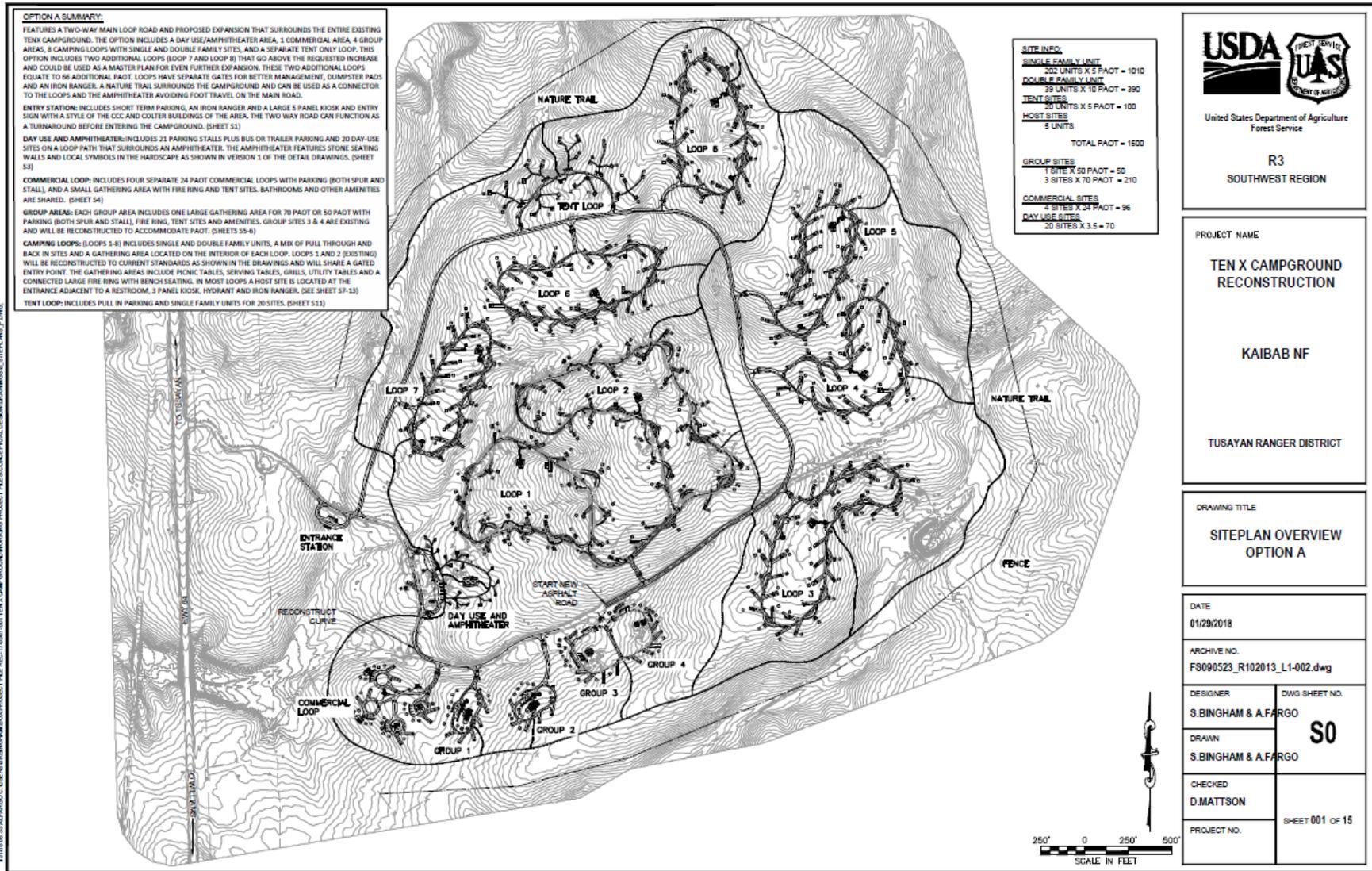


Figure 1: Design of the proposed changes to Ten X Campground. Design is subject to change during implementation.