



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Lake Havasu Field Office  
1785 Kiowa Ave  
Lake Havasu City, Arizona 86403  
[www.blm.gov/arizona](http://www.blm.gov/arizona)

## **Introduction:**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lake Havasu Field Office is committed to managing, protecting, and improving access to public lands to serve the needs of the American people. We are seeking input from the public on a proposed project. We are proposing to construct a trail system that delivers unique experiences by providing recreational opportunities along the shoreline of Lake Havasu. This proposed trail system encourages recreation access on the lake's shoreline and surrounding areas to sustain natural resources and recreational opportunities. A 30-mile-long Lake Havasu Shoreline Trail is proposed to travel along the natural terrain and rugged ridgetops primarily on BLM land. The trail would also cross Cattail Cove State Park and Bill Williams National Wildlife Refuge in some places.

## **Background:**

The project area is on the southeastern shoreline of Lake Havasu, south of Lake Havasu City, Arizona, and north of the Bill Williams River (see attached map). The project area is mostly on lands administered by the Lake Havasu Field Office. Two or three short sections would need to cross lands administered by other agencies. Appropriate agreements would be put into place prior to project implementation. The first section would tie into existing trails in Cattail Cove State Park. The second would cross approximately ½ mile of lands administered in the Bill Williams National Wildlife Refuge. A third section may need to cross a small section of State lands no longer than ¼ of a mile.

This proposed trail would begin at the BLM's Partners Point Facility, along Lake Havasu's shoreline, and ending near Bill Williams National Wildlife Refuge, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Additional access points would be via existing trails at Cattail State Cove Park and SARA Park. The proposed trail will pass within a quarter mile of existing shoreline campsites with spur trails to these sites. Currently these sites are only reachable by boat. A trail would allow hikers, trail runners, backpackers, and potentially mountain bikers to reach the water. Since the project area is currently in a designated non-motorized area, the trails would not be designed for motorized use. We would consider areas for wildlife viewing, fishing, interpretation, and some disabled accessible sites along the route. The trail has the potential to offer dramatic views of Lake Havasu as well as stunning sightings of wildlife and the Bill Williams National Wildlife Refuge.

We would complete construction in sections as funding becomes available. The constructed trail will be within the Lake Havasu Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) and Lake Havasu Recreation Management Zone (RMZ) 4. Once the project is complete, we may consider future extensions to this trail.

## **Proposed Action:**

We propose constructing a community trail system accessible from Lake Havasu City and outlying neighborhoods. The trail system would utilize existing single-track trails. We would also build, adopt, retrofit, or realign existing single-track routes along the shoreline. In addition, the proposed action is to design and construct about 30 miles of new trails utilizing sustainable trail building techniques.

A well-designed trail system would attract mountain bikers, trail runners, and hikers to the shoreline as well as promote fishing, camping, and picnicking on Lake Havasu, which would vastly benefit the

community. Members of the public have expressed support for this project and see it as a draw that could promote year-round recreational opportunities in Lake Havasu City and surrounding neighborhoods.

The decision would be whether to approve the construction of this project as well as what features and special rules that this project would include.

**Rationale:**

The Lake Havasu Field Office manages 73 boat access shoreline campsites along 20 miles of the shore of Lake Havasu. The shoreline sites are heavily occupied in summer. They offer barbecue grills, trash receptacles, toilets, and shade structures. These campsites are used primarily for camping, fishing, picnicking, and sightseeing, and they allow visitors to enjoy the recreational opportunities overnight or just for the day.

The Proposed Action would provide a beneficial recreation opportunity for hiking, biking, fishing, and backpacking enthusiasts as well as campers, primarily in the winter months. Adding a trail system along Lake Havasu would promote increased visitation to surrounding trail systems and more year-round use of Lake Havasu shoreline sites. The trail will expand public access by joining with the existing and heavily used SARA Park trail system, existing routes within state parks, and the 73 boat access campsites managed by BLM.

We are committed to integrating and maximizing accessibility into all recreation opportunities while protecting natural resources and the natural setting so that everyone can enjoy the great outdoors. A portion of the proposed trail will be designed specifically to meet the standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), to give people with disabilities more access to the outdoors and our public lands.

**Conclusion:**

Initially, we would construct up to 30 miles of trail, with the possibility of expansion in the future. Because of the amount of public land and the existing trail system, the project area has potential for additional nonmotorized trail development. Depending on the success and popularity of this trail development, future trail opportunities could be developed to the southeast, traveling to Alamo Lake.

Any future trail development would depend on partner commitment, funding, and additional environmental analysis. Trail construction would take place with multiple trail crews and construction would be completed in sections as funding becomes available.

If you would like to provide us with written comments regarding the Lake Havasu Shoreline Trail project, please send them to Bureau of Land Management, 1785 Kiowa Ave, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403. Email comments may be sent to [blm\\_az\\_lhfoweb@blm.gov](mailto:blm_az_lhfoweb@blm.gov).