



MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 18, 2023

TO: Pinal County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Kent A. Taylor, Open Space and Trails Director

RE: Bureau of Land Management, Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Applications

The Open Space and Trails Department is requesting approval of two (2) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) lease applications. The applications would be processed by the BLM Tucson Field Office and are focused on proposed regional parks #2 and #3 as identified in the Pinal County Open Space and Trails Master Plan.

The following information supports the submittal of the R&PP applications:

- Planning for and implementing regional parks is consistent with the County Strategic Priorities; “Infrastructure and Asset Management” and “Balanced and Flexible Growth”.
- The proposed regional parks are identified in the Pinal County Open Space and Trails Master Plan and the Pinal County Comprehensive Plan.
- Our experience with Peralta Regional Park (opened in January 2023) and Palo Verde Regional Park (design began in April of 2023), the R&PP process is a lengthy, multi-year process.
 - The original R&PP applications for Peralta and Palo Verde Regional Park were first submitted to BLM in 2014.
- Submission of these applications to BLM puts the County’s desired land use for these parcels “on the radar” in the BLM land use process. If other uses are proposed on these parcels, Pinal County has greater input on the compatibility and/or impact of any proposed use as it relates to our desired regional park use.
- The Open Space and Trails Advisory Commission recommended (10-0) at their October 10, 2023 meeting to submit R&PP applications for both regional park sites.
- Site specific master planning for one or both of these regional parks is anticipated to begin within the next 12-24 months.
- The County master plan process and the BLM R&PP process include extensive public outreach and involvement opportunities.

The application fee is \$100 per application.

OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS