

## **Town of Tusayan Trail Stakeholder meeting December 4, 2018 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

### **Introduction of Sirena Rana Dufault**

Mrs. Dufault gave a presentation and background and history of the project and began the discussion of the next steps in the process. She also introduced Sue from National forest service. Sue will coordinate NEPA process, because of upcoming retirement of Liz Schuppert. Presentation can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/2RITV3y>.

### **Objectives:**

- Overview of trail plan
- Review of Phase one process - South West Trail Solutions-Mark Flint
- Master plan
- Scoping results

#### **Future need:**

- Mileage on connection between trail loops
- Mrs. Dufault presentation to Council -first quarter 2019
- Maintain continuity, solid project
- Liz Schuppert- retiring January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019
- Sue NEPA point of Contact
- Mrs. Dufault has already had preliminary discussion with Jody and Deidre from NFS
- NPS wants GIS data for plan, FS will be recommending and assisting in determination of final alignment of trail.
- Timing for TEN X campground expansion project 2020-2021
- Clarinda Vail- is there a way to extend usage season, can we use campground all year round.
- Sue- we can discuss in February.
- MOU with NFS, will be special use permit.
- Town to send formal request to NFS to begin NEPA and Planning
- Have remaining comments to address with land owners and stakeholders

#### **Moving forward:**

- Contractor finishes resources surveys- environmental, cultural- done in spring and summer
- NFS to do public scoping within their stakeholder group
- NFS conducts coordination with tribes
- State historic preservation service
- Possible Fish & Wildlife agency input need based on NEPA result (summer/ fall 2019)
- NFS reviews all: environmental and public concerns, this determines NEPA level

\*If issues arise over environmental or historic assessments, NEPA may upgrade to environmental assessment level.

- Tentative NEPA completion fall 2019
- District Rangers makes final decision possibly Winter 2019
- More environmental survey quotes not just SWCA

# **Sue Farley - Environmental Coordinator, Kaibab National Forest**

Tusayan Community Trails Stakeholder Meeting Notes: December 4, 2018

## **Introduction**

- *Appreciate value of trails project for the community & visitors*
- *Recognize there has been substantial investment by the town & stakeholders in development*
- *KNF intention is to be a steadfast partner*

## **Tasks That Can Be Completed Now**

Town intention is to complete NEPA by contract and assume responsibility for construction and maintenance of proposed trails, then first steps, which can be done now, will be:

- Town provides electronic GIS data for trail alignments to KNF, and
- Town submits formal application or proposal to the Williams and Tusayan District Ranger (Jody Nickerson-Powell in position until January 18<sup>th</sup> and permanent position filled in early 2019)
  - May involve cost sharing/recovery for a special use permit or a collection agreement
- Town and Forest Service finalize the trail system proposal, including trail alignment and construction of other amenities such as trailheads or telescope platform, following Forest Service review of GIS data – completed prior to FS acceptance of application or proposal

## **Tasks That Will Be Completed Later**

Next steps, with tentative timelines, will be:

- (1) SWCA (third party consultant contracted by Tusayan) completes cultural and biological resource field work to inform the analysis for NEPA – ideally done in spring and/or summer
- (2) FS completes public scoping with Forest Service stakeholders for NEPA – done in summer or fall?
- (3) FS conducts consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office & Tribes (and US Fish and Wildlife Service, if needed) – done in summer or fall?
- (4) FS confirms NEPA authority (e.g. CE or EA?) based on results of SWCA cultural and biological resource field work, public scoping comments, and scope of the proposal – done following field work, public scoping, and consultation
- (5) SWCA completes NEPA analyses, which is informed by results of FS consultation – done in fall?
- (6) FS review of SWCA NEPA analyses – done in fall or winter?
- (7) FS issues NEPA decision regarding the proposed trails – decision by winter?