

RESOLUTION 2019-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF TUSAYAN, COCONINO COUNTY, ARIZONA, ADOPTING AND DECLARING SUPPORT FOR THE KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST TEN X CAMPGROUND EXPANSION PROJECT

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Tusayan, Coconino County, Arizona:

WHEREAS, the Town of Tusayan wholeheartedly supports the proposed Ten X Campground Expansion; and,

WHEREAS, the Ten X Campground (Ten X) was constructed almost 40 years ago to provide options for tourists/guests to camp near the Grand Canyon National Park (GCNP); and,

WHEREAS, during this 40- year span, there have only been minor updates; and

WHEREAS, the campground is located approximately one mile south of the Town of Tusayan boundary; and,

WHEREAS, visitors/guests are challenged with limited capacity in the current campground; and,

WHEREAS, the volume of GCNP visitation has increased exponentially over the years, to include record setting high visitation levels of more than six million into the GCNP in each of the last two years; and,

WHEREAS, lodging and camping sites for overnight stays have not kept pace with demand as hotels, RV parking areas, and authorized campsites are continually at maximum capacity; and,

WHEREAS, due to the lack of accommodations, Tusayan residents experience campers pulling off the roadway on both public and private properties to camp, inside and outside the Town boundaries; and,

WHEREAS, during the traditional camping seasons (spring to fall) unattended or abandoned campfires are regularly discovered, requiring a response from the local fire department who are not forest firefighters; and,

WHEREAS, these wildcat campsites pose a danger to the hotel guests, residents, as well as to other campers, the local fire department sends daily patrols

throughout the Town to identify wildcat camping sites to proactively prevent a tragedy- which takes away from other important services the fire department provides: and,

WHEREAS, the RV parking/campsite in Tusayan known as “Camper Village” is planned to be removed and replaced with hotels which will increase the hazards of wildcat camping and campfire hazards if the Ten X Campground is not expanded; and,

WHEREAS, Tusayan is creating a walking trail system which links with the Arizona National Scenic Trail (AZNST) which runs in close proximity to the east boundary of the Ten X Campground and will provide a connection to extensive hiking and mountain biking trails and is identified as a KNF priority, as follows:

“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”; and,

WHEREAS, Tusayan recognizes the importance of establishing and maintaining developed campgrounds to assure *“human impacts on vegetation may be seen, but they do not dominate the view or attract attention”*, as identified as a KNF priority.; and,

WHEREAS, Tusayan supports the general identified plan from the KNF, as follows:

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

WHEREAS, The Town of Tusayan believes the expansion of the Ten X Campground will enhance protection of the KNF through minimizing wildcat camping areas which historically creates harm to wildlife, hazards for residents and guests, as well as the potential to devastate the resources of the KNF and the GCNP.

IT IS RESOLVED, that the Town of Tusayan wholeheartedly supports the proposed Ten X Campground Expansion.

The Mayor is authorized and empowered to execute this Resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF TUSAYAN, ARIZONA, this 12th day of June 2019.




Craig Sanderson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Bruce Northern, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



William J. Sims III, Town Attorney