

Dear Friends,

We are very pleased that the **Mill Creek Partnership III (MCP III)** has formed, and so glad that you want to be involved. We are eager to continue the good work started by the two earlier iterations of the partnership, and very pleased that some of those from the first group are involved in this round. After meeting with the BLM and other experts and discussing the realities of the situation we face in the canyon, we have come up with some ideas.

We want to continue to focus on the environmental health of the land, (e.g., through removal of invasives and nurturing beaver habitat), while actively addressing impacts caused by the dramatic increase in visitation (parking problems; multiple trails; and threats to water quality, public safety, and sacred sites). To address these issues, we plan to hold monthly work parties, each of which will deal with a specific area in the canyon, with a specific desired outcome.

**While I have initiated revitalizing the Mill Creek Partnership group, I would like to find someone to act as a co-coordinator of this project with me. If you are interested, let me know.**

Were it not for the dedicated labors of the first group, carried on by the second, our partnership would not exist. The fact that the canyon has had the amount of protection and restoration that it currently has is due to a coalition of hardworking individuals and agencies. We are in their debt and hope to live up to the good work they started in the 90s.

A week ago Sunday I had the honor of meeting with Mary O'Brien of Grand Canyon Trust, and Sandy Freethey, Chair of Trail Mix, two women for whom I have the greatest admiration. Working with them, we came up with themes and dates for the first three work parties.

**Saturday, September 24, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** (We appreciate any amount of time you can give.)

September 24th is National Public Lands Day, so this is a wonderful start date for the first work party.

We will perform a variety of tasks from the roadway leading to the parking area to the Powerdam structure. We will rerock and weed trails, remove weeds, create pull-overs for vehicles on the right side of the road, pick up broken glass, and naturalize redundant trails down to the powerdam waterfall.

The parking area and adjacent land set the tone for visitors entering the canyon, so the nicer this area is, the better for the canyon as a whole. Since this will be the kick-off event for the Partnership, we will provide some delicious food and beverages for an after work party....in the parking area, of course! We will provide some tarps, (for dragging weeds to the burn/storage area) and collection containers for glass and other litter. You should bring your work gloves and water.

**Saturday, October 22, starting at 9:00 a.m.**

This work party will focus on making one main trail through the canyon. User-created trails will be naturalized where possible, while persistent user-created trails may be incorporated and maintained to prevent further damage. A scouting party will go out prior to this date and identify the areas we will be working on.

**Saturday, November 12, starting at 10:00 a.m.** (Please note later start time to adjust to the season.)

We will focus on brush removal and other seasonal projects.

We're also initiating some conversations re: the potential for Russian Olive removal from Mill Creek before it spreads further. In addition to these planned work days, we would like to create an informal schedule for maintaining the canyon. Regular users are invaluable because when they see problems and report them right away, we can address those problems quickly...things like the horrific graffiti that appeared above the left-hand waterfall recently.

[http://www.moabtimes.com/view/full\\_story/13517227/article-BLM-seeks-information-about-Mill-Creek-graffiti?instance=secondary\\_one\\_leftcolumn](http://www.moabtimes.com/view/full_story/13517227/article-BLM-seeks-information-about-Mill-Creek-graffiti?instance=secondary_one_leftcolumn)

We would like to create a stenciled slogan to place on the Powerdam structure itself, reminding people to stay on the trail. We felt a stencil would be the best method to use, since any sign placed on that structure is subject to graffiti. With a stencil, we can simply repaint a blank space, and carefully spray paint our message on the wall.

**A Variety of Ideas:** There are as many different ideas for what is "right" for the canyon as there are people who love the canyon. We are open to discussing all ideas and look forward to bringing this gorgeous area back to its natural state.

**As background,** please see (attached) the **2001 Mill Creek Management Plan**, the **Environmental Assessment (1996)** and information about the **Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)** status.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,  
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