Interpretation and Trail Management

Session Objectives

- Identify what interpretation is and how it differs from other forms of communication
- Discuss how interpretation can be used to achieve your trail management goals
- Identify some of the various methods of interpretation that can be used to communicate your message

What is Interpretation?

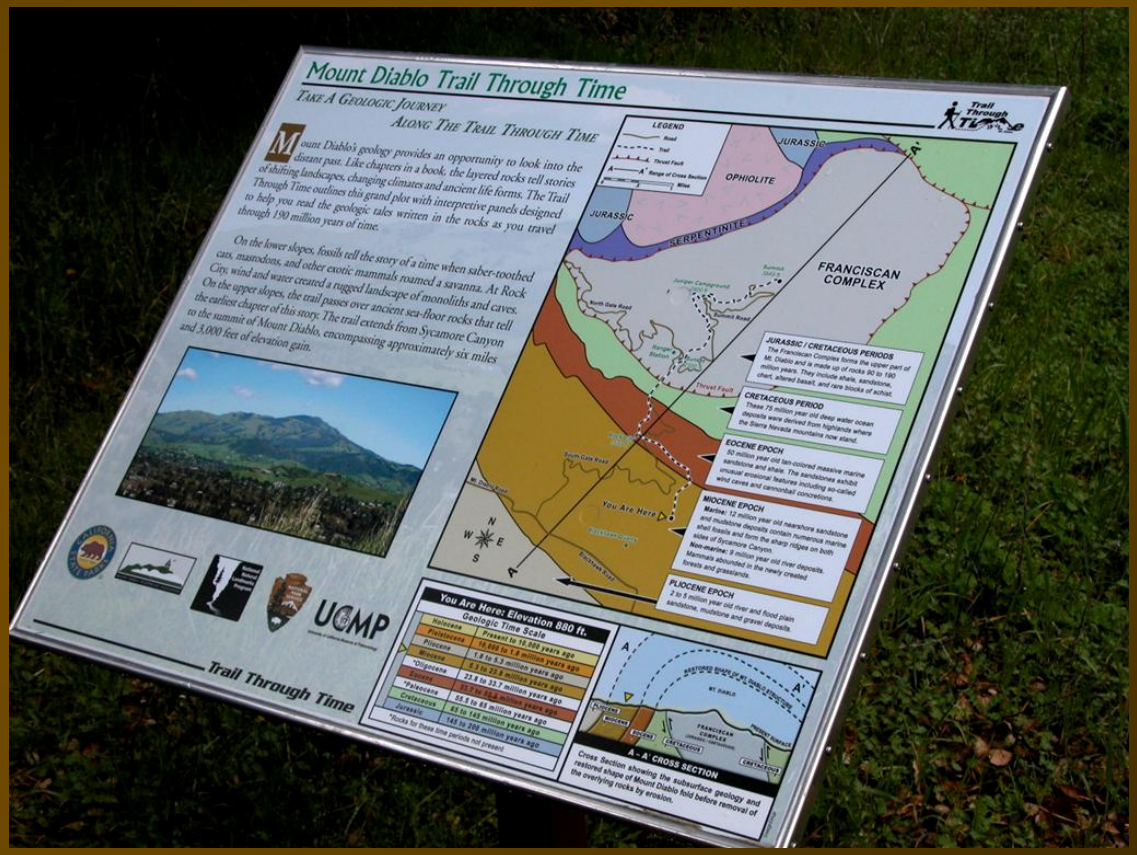
Communication

Information

Education

Provocation

Making connections



Why do we Interpret?

Enrich the visitor experience

Help people develop a connection with the resource

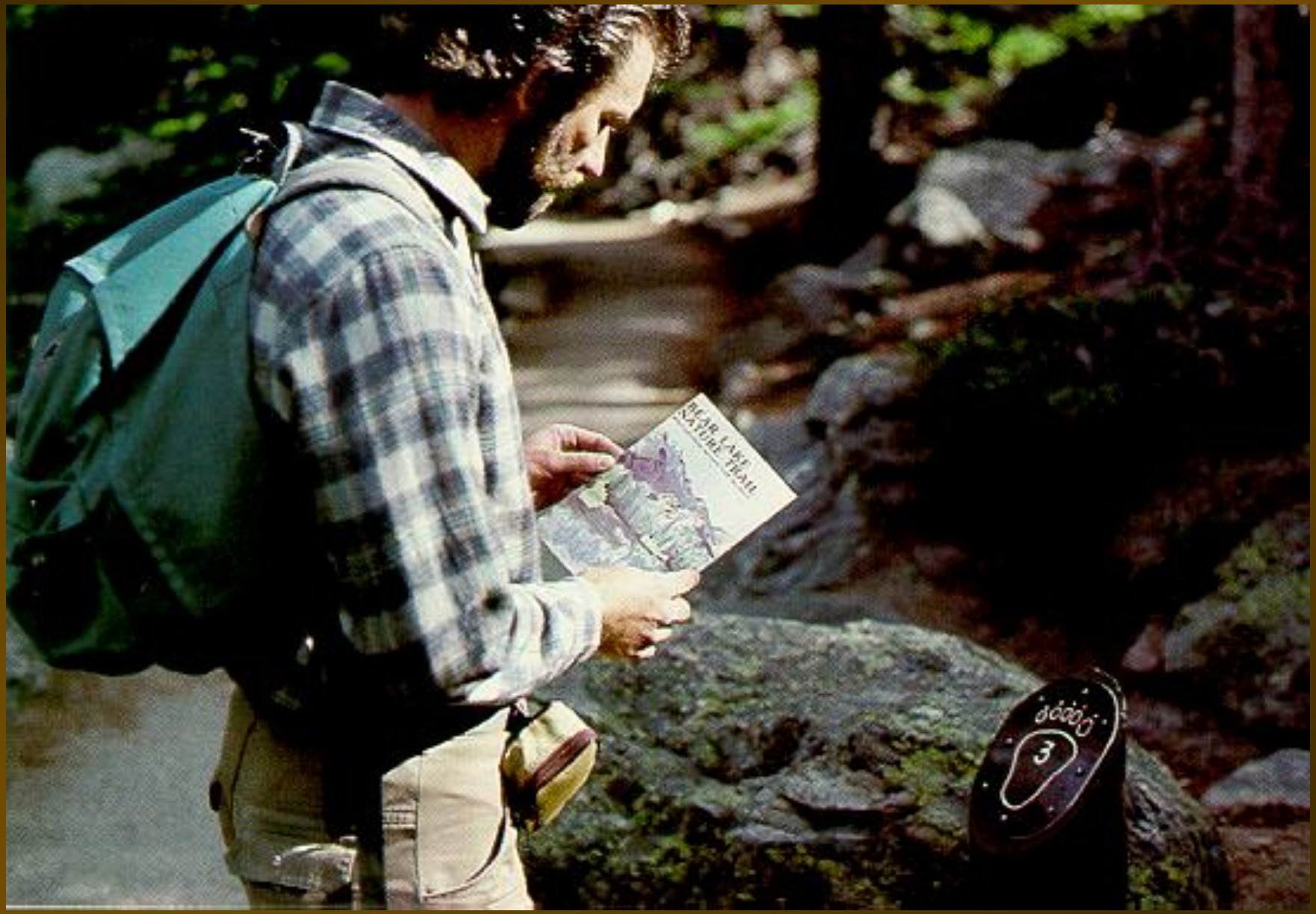
Encourage stewardship behaviors

Support management’s goals of land protection and utilization

Enrich the visitor experience and make a connection with the resource

Interpretive panels

Trail guides



Interpreter led walk

Trail design

Resource protection and land stewardship

Meeting resource management goals

Give Plants a Chance!
Please Stay Off

Don't Help a Good Bird Go Bad!

REDWOOD NATIONAL & STATE PARKS

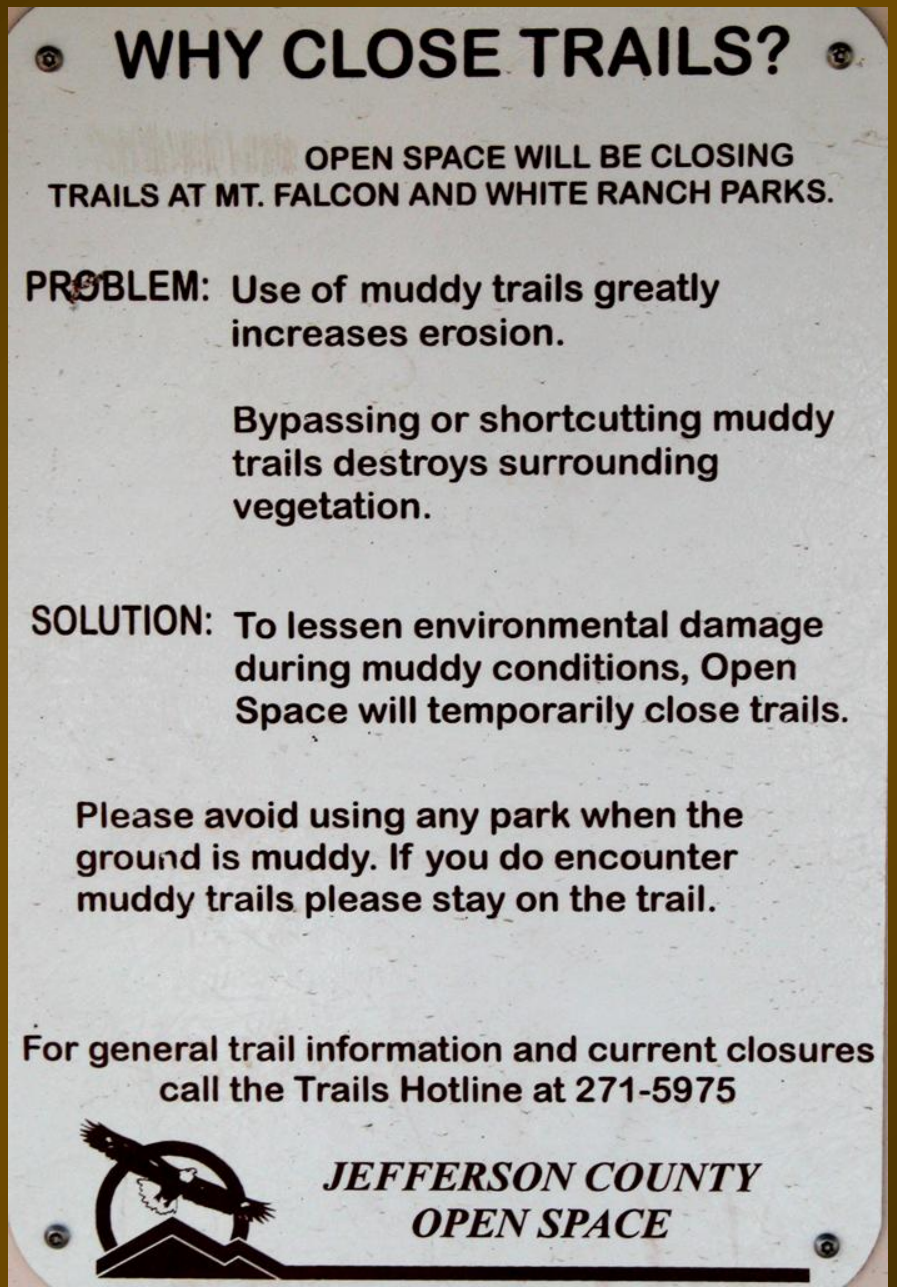
You can help *save the threatened marbled murrelet by not leaving trash at the trailhead or at your camp. Ravens, jays, and crows (corvids), following trails of trash, fly deep into the old-growth forests. Once these corvids arrive, they stay, eventually finding the murrelet's nest high up on old-growth tree limbs, and eat the eggs and chicks of a declining species.* ***Thank you*** *for giving this robin-sized seabird the chance to survive in the ancient forest.*

Promote Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance Concepts

Supporting Trail Management Goals

Trail hazards and warnings

Trail Closures

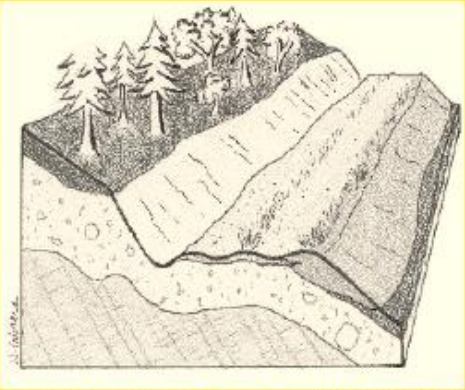


The impacts of new trail projects

The Ossagon Trail Is Slimming Down

From September 16, 2008 to June 1, 2009 the Ossagon Trail in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park will be closed to visitor use. This closure will enable park managers to convert the old logging road currently used as the trail, to a redesigned single-track trail and to construct a new bridge over Ossagon Creek. These improvements will provide a more scenic and challenging ride for backcountry cyclists.

Before Conversion



Abandoned logging roads are often wide deeply rutted routes that offer little challenge for the backcountry rider.

After Conversion

Road-to-trail conversions offer a narrow and more sinuous riding experience. Road rehabilitation also improves the scenic character of the trails.

The trail shown on right was converted from a twenty-foot wide road in 2001. The trail now is a popular route for park visitors. The Ossagon road-to-trail project will provide an improved riding experience on the very popular 20 mile coastal loop trail within Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park.

For more information contact:
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Trail Closure Notice

Interpretive panels that identify the need and value of the project

Roads from the past threaten the future of our watershed.
Watershed Rehabilitation
Problems
• Culverts, ditches, and stream crossings fail
• Rills, gullies and landslides occur
• Hillsides are denuded of vegetation
• Streams are choked with sediment
Solutions
• Road rehabilitation
• Road to trail conversion
• Stream crossings excavated
• Side cast soil is recovered
• Revegetate with site specific native plants
Results
• Future erosion is reduced
• Water runoff patterns returned to normal
• Improved water quality
• Reestablishment of plants and animals
Gully erosion
Washed out culvert
Original roadbed
After rehabilitation
Original roadbed
After rehabilitation
After conversion
Landslide caused by road failure

Trails may threaten park resources if not properly designed, constructed and maintained.

Many early California State Park trails were constructed following the path of least resistance, without long range planning and ecological sensitivities. These trails have fallen into disrepair, making them unsuitably rough and environmentally degrading.

On The Path to Better Trails

Problems

Poor design and construction of trails may result in the following problems.

- **Steep grades**
- **Poor drainage**
- **Erosion**
- **Entrenched trails**
- **Falling structures**
- **Poor sustainability**

Trail reconstruction can look devastating at first glance

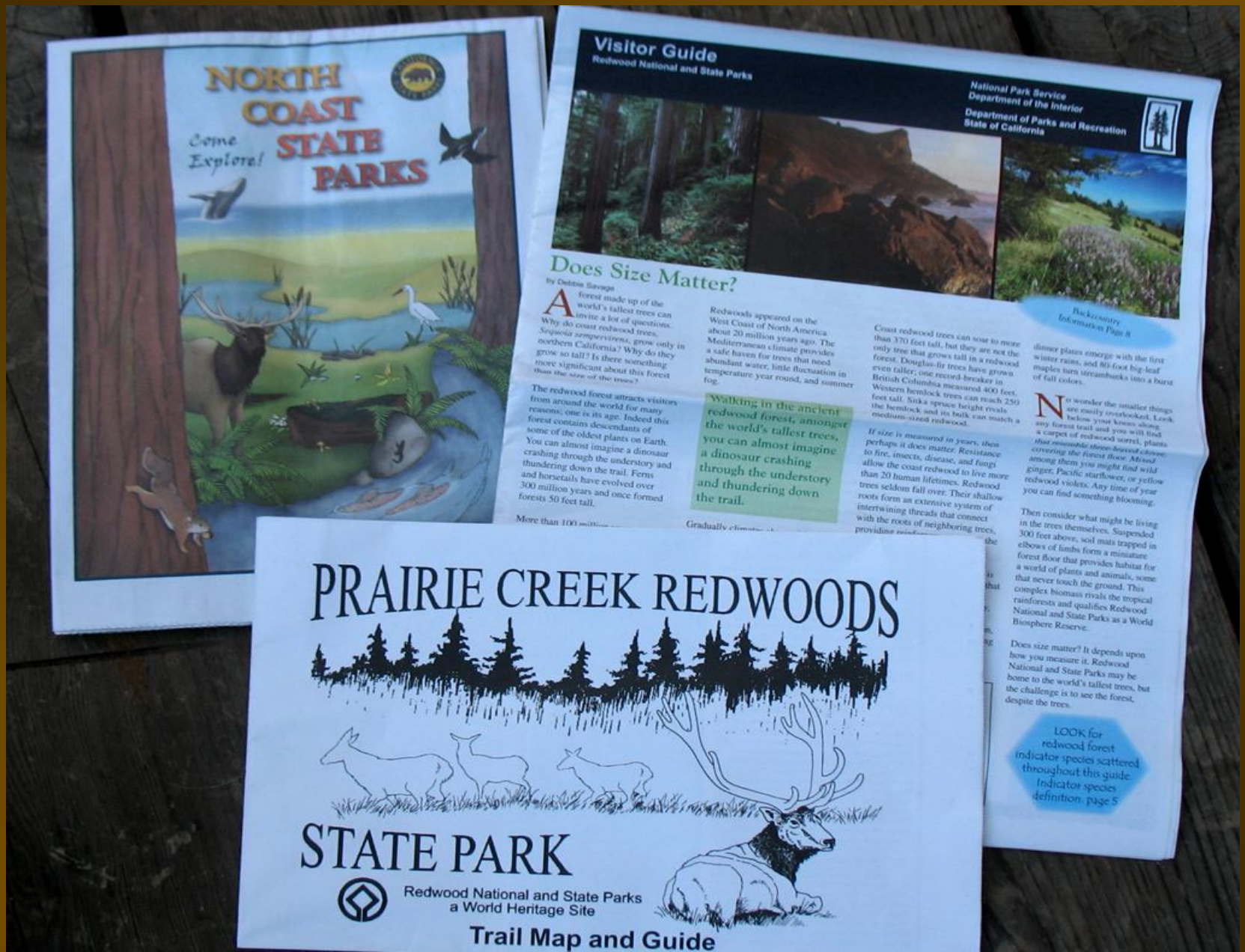
Please bear with us while we create beater trails

Solutions and Benefits

Using improved methods and materials new trails and structures are being built and old trails are being reconstructed and rerouted. Impact on park resources is reduced, maintenance and replacement costs decrease and visitor access, safety and enjoyment increases.

You can help the environment by staying on designated trails.

Print media trail maps and visitor guides



Internet

nps.gov
(home)

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

search go
Search this park
Search nps.gov

Grand Canyon
National Park

view map | text size: A A A | printer friendly

PARK HOME
PLAN YOUR VISIT
- Directions
- Operating Hours & Seasons
- Fees & Reservations
- Things To Do
  - Places To Go
  - Guided Tours
  - River Trips
  - Backcountry Hiking
    - Day Hiking
    - Overnight Hiking
    - Hiking Safety
    - Hiking Tips
    - Hiking FAQ
    - Summer Hiking
    - Guided Hikes
    - Weather Dangers
    - Private Stock
    - Food Storage
    - Campsite Info
    - Distances
    - Backcountry Permit
    - Updates and Closures
  - Ranger Programs

Backcountry Hiking

backcountry hiking includes:

- Day Hiking
- Overnight Hiking
- Hiking Safety
- Hiking Tips
- Hiking FAQ
- Summer Hiking
- Guided Hikes
- Weather Dangers
- Private Stock
- Food Storage
- Campsite Info
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- Updates and Closures

First time Grand Canyon hikers tend to react to the experience in one of two ways: either they can't wait to get back, or they swear they'll never do it again.

Going on a hike is wonderful way to experience some of the canyon's rich natural beauty and immense size. However, even if you are an avid hiker, hiking the Grand Canyon is very different from

Backcountry Updates and Closures including trail restrictions **more...**

Done | Internet

Meeting with stakeholders or user groups and teaching trail design

Holding user conflict resolution & trail etiquette workshops

Developing user assistance units

Consider your message at each stage of the process

“through interpretation - understanding,
through understanding - appreciation,
through appreciation - protection.”