

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
LOWER SONORAN-SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT
PROPOSED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Lead Agency: US Department of the Interior (DOI), Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Cooperating Agencies: Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona Department of Transportation

Location: Arizona

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Project Web site: http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/planning/son_des.html

Abstract: The Lower Sonoran-Sonoran Desert National Monument Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS) is a project of BLM Arizona that supports the BLM's Mission. The PRMP provides direction for approximately 1.4 million acres of public land in south-central Arizona managed by the Lower Sonoran Field Office (LSFO). Of these public lands, approximately 486,400 acres are within the Sonoran Desert National Monument (SDNM) established in 2001 by Presidential Proclamation.

Information provided by the public, other agencies and organizations, and BLM personnel has been used to develop and analyze the alternatives; the EIS evaluates five alternatives. Alternative A (the No Action Alternative) represents continuation of current management for the Lower Sonoran and Sonoran Desert National Monument Decision Areas. Alternative B would identify the greatest extent of public lands suitable for the widest potential array of uses, and emphasize opportunities for those uses. Alternative C represents an attempt to balance resource protection with human use and influence by providing opportunities for a variety of uses, while placing an emphasis on resource protection and conservation. Alternative D would place the greatest emphasis on resource protection/conservation, and opportunities to visit remote settings and experience non-motorized, primitive recreation. Alternative E, the agency Proposed RMP, incorporates elements from each of the other alternatives, and offers a unique prescription for managing the Decision Areas while, at the same time, providing long-term protection and resource conservation. Major issues addressed include travel management, lands with wilderness characteristics, habitat management for wildlife and special status species, livestock grazing, recreation management, and energy development.

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