Chapter Two

Chapter 2 - Alternatives

2.1 Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to present the combinations of public land uses and resource management practices that address issues identified during the scoping process. This chapter describes in detail the No-Action (current management) Alternative and four Action Alternatives for the Agua Fria National Monument and the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Areas (Map 1-1). Each Alternative varies in both perspective and intensity of management. In addition, each Alternative consists of a set of land use allocations and management actions needed to implement the Alternative. The components of each Alternative are later reviewed for potential environmental impacts. The results of this review are presented in *Chapter 4*.

In addition to the Agua Fria National Monument and Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Areas, this document addresses several scattered, isolated parcels of BLM-managed Federal lands, even though they are not within either planning area. These scattered parcels, shown in (Map 1-2), are discussed in detail in the Management Common to All Action Alternatives section of this chapter.

This document analyzes management goals and objectives that BLM is proposing for Federal lands under our authority. However, lands under the jurisdiction of BLM are not always under complete Federal ownership. These lands, referred to as "split estate" lands, can be managed by BLM in accordance with the goals and objectives stated here only to the extent that the public has direct ownership of the land.

Split estate lands limit BLM's ability to manage for minerals, visual resources, wildlife habitat and surface occupancy. When reviewing this document or using any final land use plan prepared by BLM, the reader is advised to research land status to determine the extent of BLM's control and to ascertain the extent to which a land use plan may be applicable to a particular parcel of land. There is a total of 594,600 split estate acres with Federal mineral ownership and non-Federal surface ownership. Out of this total, 181,200 acres are outside the planning areas to the north and east (Map 2-1).

Each Alternative represents a general theme; in that, the actions to implement its land use allocations have been selected to promote a unifying theme. However, all allocations and associated actions must meet BLM's overarching principles of multiple use and sustained yield. The complete management guidance for each Alternative includes management from the Management Common to All Action Alternatives section that follows the detailed discussions of *Alternatives B, C, D, and E*. Please pay particular attention to the definitions of allocations, Desired Future Conditions (DFC), and management actions that apply to all Alternatives. The complete management of any Alternative must include the actions in the Management Common to All Action Alternatives section of this chapter.

Alternative A Current Management:
Alternative A is the current management situation for both the Agua Fria National Monument and the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area. *Alternative A* will serve as a baseline for most resource and land use allocations. The current management Alternative contains the decisions guiding BLM's management today. This Alternative is often called the No-Action Alternative because it represents the way BLM would manage within the planning areas if the Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) effort were not conducted. These decisions have been organized to make them as consistent as possible with the way the "action" *Alternatives B, C, D, and E,* have been organized. This organization will provide the reader with an approach to compare current management with that suggested in each Alternative.

Alternative B Management for Increased Recreational Use: *Alternative B* plans for increased public use and includes more recreation-related development, consistent with protecting monument resources. *Alternative B* also allows visitation and development within the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area while ensuring that resource protection is not compromised.

Alternative C Management for Use and Landscape Protection: *Alternative C* would give visitors opportunities to experience the natural landscapes and cultural resource setting of the monument. Generally, *Alternative C* would impose more restrictive decisions than would *Alternative B*. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area *Alternative C* would put more emphasis on identifying and protecting undeveloped landscapes than *Alternative B.*

Alternative D Management for Primitive Landscape Protection: *Alternative D* emphasizes protecting undeveloped, primitive landscapes in the monument, resulting in limited public use and the withdrawal of authorized grazing. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area *Alternative D* emphasizes natural landscapes and non-motorized recreation, with more management dedicated to maintaining primitive recreation opportunities than under the other Alternatives.

Alternative E Management for Use and Resource Sustainability: *Alternative E* is a combination of elements selected from the other Alternatives that were later studied and further refined. *Alternative E* is BLM's Preferred RMP Alternative. This Alternative is designed to respond most comprehensively to each of the issues and management concerns identified in the planning process. BLM has determined that the management actions in *Alternative E* would provide the optimal balance between authorized resource use and the protection and long-term sustainability of sensitive resources within the planning areas.

The Alternatives presented in this chapter address the Agua Fria National Monument Planning Area first, followed by the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area. To facilitate development and presentation of management scenarios, the planning areas have been divided into distinct geographical units called Management Units (MUs). In size and planning scale, Agua Fria National Monument is itself a Management Unit. The MUs within the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area provide a geographic orientation and a community focus for management. These units roughly correspond to the Community Resource Units (CRUs) that were mapped as part of the collaborative planning process, with boundaries adjusted to include areas of resource management challenges in those units.

Special Area Designations Used in this Document

Several designations within the national monument and specific MUs distinguish the land use under various Alternatives.

Special Area Designations - The following are special area designations for protecting one or more sensitive resources:

- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), which include:
    - Outstanding Natural Areas (ONAs): ACECs that contain unusual natural characteristics and are managed mainly for educational and recreation purposes.
    - Research Natural Areas (RNAs): ACECs that contain natural resources of scientific interest and are managed mainly for research and educational purposes.
    - Biological or Cultural ACECs: ACECs that contain cultural or biological resources that are of at least regional significance and are mainly managed to preserve these values.

- An ACEC could contain combinations of the

aforementioned values and be managed to simultaneously preserve or enhance all resources within it.

- Wilderness Areas - Areas designated by Congress as wilderness and added to the National Wilderness Preservation System.
- Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSRs) - River systems that meet eligibility requirements may be designated by Congress to protect their scenic beauty and quality of habitat.
- Back Country Byways - Routes designated because of the scenic quality of the landscape or interpretive opportunities for various levels of vehicular travel.
- National Recreation Trails - The National Trail System Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-543) authorized creation of a national trail system comprised of National Recreation Trails, National Scenic Trails, and National Historic Trails. National Recreation Trails may be designated by the Secretary of Interior to recognize exemplary trails of local and regional significance.

Land Use Allocations Used in This Document

In addition to the special area designations described above, several allocations were used to focus management in certain areas to address particular resource needs. The following is a list of the allocations used:

- Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHAs) – General areas that are managed to enhance the habitat of one or more wildlife species.
- Special Cultural Resource Management Area (SCRMA) - An area containing cultural resources that are of special importance for public use, scientific use, and traditional use or other uses as defined in BLM's Manual 8110.4.
- Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) - Areas of intensive recreation use that will be managed to retain the recreation opportunities while protecting other resources and reducing user conflicts.
    - Recreation Management Zones (RMZs) - Areas within SRMAs with particular recreation management focus or resource challenges.
        - Front Country RMZ - Recreation management zone where management will focus on maintaining multiple types of access for recreation and interpretive opportunities.
        - Back Country RMZ - Recreation management zone where managemen t will focus on maintaining the natural landscape and primitive recreation opportunities.
        - Passage RMZ - Recreation management zone that provides for motorized access and vehicle-based activities such as dispersed camping through the Back Country RMZ.
- Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMAs) - Areas that are not allocated to SRMAs are allocated to ERMAs. These are areas where recreation management is limited to custodial actions.
- Lands Allocated to Maintain or Enhance Wilderness Characteristics - Areas that contain resource values of naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation where maintaining these values represents a major management focus.
- Visual Resource Management Classes (VRM) - These allocations are

to establish standards for managing visual change to the landscape when management or development activities are proposed. The VRM Classes and standards are described in section 2.7.1.8 discussion of the Management Common to All Action Alternatives.

- Off Highway Vehicle allocations of Open, Closed, and Limited (OHV) - All BLM's lands will be allocated to one of these levels of OHV use as described in the BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook H-1601-1, Appendix C II D.

These land use allocations are described in detail for all the Alternatives. Areas within the MUs that are not afforded special management by the designations and allocations described above will be administered according to the management actions in the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area and in the Management Units sections of this chapter.

2.2 Alternative A (Current Management)

Current management or the No-Action Alternative for each planning area describes the management decisions within existing management plans that would continue if no new decisions were made to alter them.

2.2.1 Agua Fria National Monument

BLM prepared an interim management policy for newly designated BLM national monuments (Instruction Memorandum No. 2002-008) following the signing of Proclamation 7263 (Appendix A) on January 11, 2000. In general, actions that are not precluded by the proclamation and do not conflict with the purposes of the monument may continue. Allowed activities can be restricted only under the following conditions:

1. BLM, through processes required by law, recognizes places where such uses should be restricted or prohibited to protect the Federal lands and resources, including the objects protected by the monument designation; or
2. BLM finds a clear threat from such a use to the Federal lands and resources, including the objects protected by the monument designation, and the circumstances call for swift protective action.

In May 2002, BLM released the Agua Fria National Monument Current Management Guidance (BLM 2002). This document is a compilation of management decisions from previously approved management documents, analysis of those decisions in the context of the proclamation, and the Interim Management Policy for BLM's National Monuments and National Conservation Areas (NCAs) (Instruction Memorandum 2002-008) (BLM 2001a). The guidance describes the following by resource:

- Management decisions that conform to relevant plans and may be implemented.
- Decisions that do not conform and may not be implemented.
- Decisions that require further consideration and are analyzed within this RMP/EIS.

This guidance gives BLM the direction necessary to inform the public about ongoing uses and activities acceptable within the monument. The Current Management Guidance is a temporary document that will be replaced by the RMP developed through this planning process. The guidance includes the valid decisions and management actions brought forward from planning documents in use at the time of the proclamation. These documents include the following:

- *Phoenix Resource Management Plan (BLM 1988a).*
- *Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration (BLM 1997).*
- *Arizona Statewide Wild and Scenic Rivers Legislative Environmental Impact Statement* (BLM 1994b).
- *Arizona Statewide Land Use Plan Amendment for Fire, Fuels, and Air quality Management (*BLM 2004).
- *Statewide Plan Amendment of Land-Use Plans in Arizona for Implementation of Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration* (BLM 1997b).

Several activity plans have been developed for the area that is now within the Agua Fria National Monument. They formulate more detailed decisions than the plans listed above and, where they are not in conflict with decisions made in this new plan, will continue to be valid. Any decisions from the following plans listed in this document are implementation level decisions.

- *Black Canyon Habitat Management Plan* (revised) (BLM 1993b).
- *Black Canyon Tobosa Grassland Prescribed Burn Environmental Analysis* (BLM 1993c).
- *Coordinated RMP for the Horseshoe Ranch Grazing Allotment* (BLM 1998).

Following are the management decisions from existing plans and guidance documents that are relevant to Agua Fria National Monument.

2.2.1.1 Special Area Designations

Under *Alternative A*, two ACECs and suitable wild and scenic river segments would remain under current management. These areas are listed below and shown in Map 2-2. In addition to the special area designations, the map shows the location of the Perry Mesa National Register District, which extends onto the Tonto National Forest and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Larry Canyon ACEC (80 acres)

Management Actions

Close to motorized vehicles.

Prohibit livestock grazing.

Prohibit Land Use Authorizations.

Withdraw 80 acres from Mineral Entry.

Prohibit surface occupancy for oil and gas development.

Perry Mesa ACEC (9,580 acres)

Would limit motorized vehicles to designated roads and trails.

Acquire 8,484 acres of State and private lands.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

The Agua Fria River segments, which have been determined to be suitable for WSR status and described in the Arizona Statewide Wild and Scenic Rivers Legislative EIS, would be managed in a way that does not degrade the values defining their suitability.

2.2.1.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

All lands and interests in lands within Agua Fria National Monument would be retained in Federal public ownership. The RMP evaluates the opportunities for acquiring non-Federal lands within or next to the monument that could protect or enhance management of monument resources. Any acquired lands and interests within the monument's boundary would be added to the monument.

Federal lands and interests in lands within the monument are withdrawn from all new forms of entry, location, selection, sale, leasing, or other disposition under the public land laws, including the mineral leasing and mining laws.

Utility and Transportation Corridors and Communication Sites

Existing right-of-way corridors from previous plans would be modified, removed, or remain the same (Map 2-3). No new or widened transportation corridors would be designated within the monument.

Existing utility rights-of-way in the monument would be modified, removed, or maintained in accordance with BLM's agreements with utility providers for as long as the demand exists for the utility. New rights-of-way might be permitted within existing rights-of-way, and where site-specific National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis determines that impacts would be negligible on the values for which the monument was designated. Maintaining existing facilities would be permitted, subject to compliance with current policies and practices, provided that monument resources are protected.

Applications for rights-of-way or ancillary public facilities will be evaluated and processed under existing policies and practices, and as needed, for access to private inholdings, public facilities, or administrative sites.

BLM might consider applications for new facilities if they determine that such facilities will protect or enhance monument resources.

Land Use Authorizations

Any land use authorizations, if applicable, would be managed in accordance with valid existing rights granted before the monument was designated. Land use authorizations will be evaluated to ensure compatibility with protecting monument resources. Some activities will be allowed to continue if they are not precluded by the proclamation and do not conflict with monument resource management objectives.

Applications, proposals, and future use requests that were pending when the monument was created, are subject to the terms of the proclamation, including its recognition of valid existing rights and other management directives and decisions for the monument. Maintaining existing facilities would be permitted, subject to compliance with current policies and practices, provided that monument resources are protected.

2.2.1.3 Soil, Air, and Water Resources

Soil cover and productivity would be maintained or improved through erosion prevention and land treatments.

Activity plans for maintaining or promoting appropriate ground cover would be implemented. These plans would provide for infiltration, permeability, soil moisture storage, and soil stability suitable for ecological sites.

Watershed improvement projects would be implemented to increase ground cover and reduce erosion.

BLM would ensure that mitigation is considered during project planning to prevent or reduce impacts to air quality.

Water rights, subject to valid existing rights, would be reserved in an amount sufficient to fulfill the purpose for which the monument was established. BLM's management actions to protect water resources would include the following:

- Implementing activity plans to maintain and enhance stream flows.
- Developing activity plans to ensure that all water meets or exceeds Federal and State water quality standards.
- Reducing impacts to water quality by implementing mitigation measures during project construction.

2.2.1.4 Biological Resources

The following decisions relative to management of biological resources were extracted from current planning documents:

- Designate Larry Canyon ACEC (Map 2-2).
- Improve the Agua Fria River riparian corridor.
- Implement grazing management practices that protect wildlife species and their habitats, in accordance with 1997 *Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration* (Land Health Standards)
- Continue to transplant native fish species into suitable sites.
- Modify fences to allow wildlife movement.
- Develop new water sources.
- Conduct prescribed burns to restore native grasses and improve pronghorn habitat.
- Use native species when restoring or rehabilitating disturbed or degraded rangelands. Non-native plants may be used under limited circumstances in accordance with the Land Health Standards and Guidelines.
- Modify existing agreements with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) animal damage control, specifically targeting individual predators rather than predator populations.
- Coordinate with AGFD on hunting and fishing policies to ensure public safety, especially if there are areas of increased visitor use.
- Continue existing noxious weed control. Exotic species would not be introduced unless doing so is essential for controlling noxious weeds or other undesirable species.
- Plant cottonwood and willow along the Agua Fria River and its tributaries.
- Prohibit firewood collection where it might affect wildlife habitat.
- Acknowledge that scientific investigations are important to increasing our understanding of monument resources. However, investigations should avoid surface disturbance.
- Prohibit vegetation chaining and other vegetation manipulation methods that cause substantial surface disturbance.

The following Biological Opinions and Conference Opinions address endangered species management within the planning areas:

- [2-21-88-F-167] The Phoenix Resource Management Plan/EIS.
- [2-21-96-F-421] The Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan (1983), and Lower Gila North Grazing EIS.
- [2-21-96-F-422] The Eastern Arizona Grazing EIS, Phoenix District Portion.
- [2-21-99-F-031] Reintroduction of Gila Topminnow and Desert Pupfish into Three Tributaries of the Agua Fria River.
- [2-21-03-C-409] Existing Phoenix Resource Management Plan for the Agua Fria National Monument.

2.2.1.5 Cultural Resources

BLM would continue to coordinate with Tonto National Forest in managing cultural resources in the Perry Mesa National Register District, which encompasses the areas of Perry Mesa (including the significant archaeological sites in Perry Mesa ACEC), Black Mesa, and the Agua Fria River Canyon. The boundaries of the Perry Mesa National Register District and Perry Mesa ACEC are shown in Map 2-2.

BLM would coordinate with State Government, tribes, and other governmental entities (under existing agreements and any new arrangements deemed necessary) to disseminate and exchange information and cooperate in management actions consistent with legal authorities and other directives that guide BLM.

Current interim management guidance acknowledges that, although scientific, archaeological, and historical investigations are important to increasing our understanding of monument resources, surface disturbance should be avoided.

BLM would implement protective actions, including placing signs and barriers at sites and repairing vandalism-caused damage at sites.

Professional and avocational archaeologists would continue to conduct resource inventories and site recordings with BLM's approval.

2.2.1.6 Paleontological Resources

No significant paleontological resources are known to exist within the monument. Any newly found resources would be managed under existing BLM's policies and guidance.

2.2.1.7 Recreation Resources

Suitable signs would be placed at the monument's boundaries and other relevant information would be posted as needed. BLM would initiate actions to interpret the monument's resources and provide environmental education to visitors on important topics (e.g. visitor safety and resource protection). Management discretion would be exercised, when needed, through emergency closures or other actions to protect the monument's resources.

Current recreation uses would continue, including hiking, target shooting, viewing prehistoric sites, and dispersed recreational camping (with a 14-day limit). Collecting any objects, including fossils, rock specimens, and archaeological artifacts would be allowed by permit only for legitimate scientific uses documented by BLM.

2.2.1.8 Visual Resources

No Visual Resource Management allocations were made in previous planning documents. In the absence of VRM standards established through planning, VRM Class III standards have been applied throughout the planning area.

2.2.1.9 Rangeland Management

Land Use Allocation

Where applicable, livestock grazing would be permitted within the national monument, pursuant to the terms of existing permits and leases. There are currently 11 grazing leases on 10 range allotments.

Livestock grazing would be prohibited in the Larry Canyon ACEC (Map 2-2).

Desired Future Condition

In the monument (as in all properly managed grazing pastures), proper grazing management practices are followed to protect diverse and productive plant communities and the proper functioning condition of riparian areas.

Watersheds are in properly functioning conditions, including their upland, riparian, and aquatic components. Soil and plant conditions support infiltration, storage, and release of water that are in balance with climate and landform.

Ecological processes are maintained to support healthy biotic populations and communities.

Management Actions

New water sources might be developed if monitoring or other data reveal a need.

Fence construction and maintenance will follow guidance provided in BLM's Handbook for Fencing H-1741.

All previous versions of the grazing administration regulations have been succeeded by the Department of the Interior's *Final Rule for Grazing Administration*, issued in 1995, which requires implementing standards and

guidelines to achieve the fundamentals of rangeland health. The *Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration* (BLM 1997a) (discussed in sections 2.7.1.1 Land Health Standards and 2.7.1.9 Rangeland Management of Management Common to All Action Alternatives of this chapter) were completed in 1997.

2.2.1.10 Mineral Resource Management

All Federal minerals would remain withdrawn from all forms of location, sale, or leasing, including withdrawal from the following:

- Location, entry, and patent under the mining laws.
- Disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing.
- Disposal under the Mineral Materials Act.

Mineral interests may be exchanged if the exchange furthers the protective purposes of the monument. Any mineral interests acquired by the United States within the monument would be reserved as part of the monument and would be subject to the withdrawals listed here.

For lands encumbered by mining claims, no activity beyond casual use, as defined in 43 CFR 3809, would be allowed without a determination of valid existing rights.

2.2.1.11 Fire Management

Prescribed burning would continue to be conducted on the national monument to achieve the following:

- Eliminate invasive species.
- Reduce the abundance of woody species.
- Restore and increase production of native grasses.
- Increase the production and vigor of perennial grasses, annual grasses, and forbs.
- Improve pronghorn antelope habitat.

Full suppression of wildfires would continue in the monument.

2.2.1.12 Resource Conservation Areas and Multiple Resource Management Areas

One RCA and two MRMAs would remain under current management under *Alternative A*. These areas are listed below, with applicable management decisions, and shown on Map 2-4.

- Black Canyon RCA (115,650 acres).
- Cordes Junction MRMA (10,810 acres) - An activity plan would be developed; surface occupancy of oil and gas leases would be prohibited in riparian zones; land use authorizations would be prohibited in riparian areas; motorized vehicles would be limited to existing roads and trails; and non-BLM land would be acquired.
- Sycamore Creek MRMA (3,820 acres) - An activity plan would be developed; surface occupancy of oil and gas leases would be prohibited in riparian zones; land use authorizations would be prohibited in riparian areas; motorized vehicles would be limited to existing roads and trails; and non-BLM land would be acquired.

2.2.1.13 Transportation and Public Access

Consistent with Proclamation 7263 (Appendix A) and the Purpose and Significance of Agua Fria National Monument, no areas in the monument would be authorized for cross-country, off-road vehicular use, except for authorized administrative and emergency purposes. Motorized and mechanical vehicular uses would occur only on existing routes (Map 2-1).

Larry Canyon ACEC (80 acres) would be closed to motorized vehicles.

Perry Mesa ACEC (9,580 acres) would limit motorized vehicles to designated roads and trails.

2.2.2 Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area

The Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area is managed in accordance with the Phoenix RMP (BLM 1988a) and the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan (MFP) (BLM 1983). Additionally, management decisions in the Kingman RMP (BLM 1993a) and the Phoenix RMP cover the scattered parcels that are addressed in this planning effort but are located outside the planning area.

The Phoenix RMP divided the planning area into smaller management units, each with a particular management focus. Cooperative Recreation Management Areas (CRMAs) had significant recreation values and were recognized by county and State Governments as important areas for intensive recreation uses. Resource Conservation Areas (RCAs) were developed to consolidate public lands by acquiring State and private parcels with resources that would benefit from public owners. Multiple Resource Management Areas (MRMAs) were managed with an emphasis on balancing the use of several resources, including grazing, recreation, and biological and cultural resources.

The following are the management decisions from the three plans that are relevant to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area:

2.2.2.1 Special Area Designations

Under *Alternative A*, five wilderness areas and one back country byway would remain under current management. These areas and byway are listed below.

- Big Horn Mountains Wilderness - 21,000 acres.
- Harquahala Mountains Wilderness - 22,880 acres.
- Hassayampa River Canyon Wilderness - 11,840 acres.
- Hells Canyon Wilderness - 9,900 acres.
- Hummingbird Springs Wilderness - 31,200 acres.
- Harquahala Mountain Summit Back Country Byway.

The wilderness areas are shown on Map 1-1 and the back country byway is shown on Map 2-5.

2.2.2.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

All public land that has been found to be potentially suitable for disposal (Map 2-6) by sale meets the criteria in Section 203 (a)(1) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). The section states, "...such tract because of its location or other characteristic is difficult and uneconomical to manage as part of the public lands and is not suitable for management by another Federal department or agency." These lands would be disposed of at fair market value, excluding lands that would be disposed to local governments under the Recreation and Public Purpose Act (R&PPA). Lands which are potentially suitable for disposal will be subject to valid existing rights. A total of 54,370 acres have been found to be potentially suitable for disposal.

Other land tenure adjustments include the following:

- Retain public lands (surface and subsurface estate) in the Black Canyon and the Lake Pleasant RCAs.
- Consolidate public ownership and intensively manage lands in these two RCAs.
- Pursue acquisition of all State land in the two RCAs on a case-by-case basis.
- Acquire through exchange any non-Federal mineral estate underlying Federal surface holdings in the two RCAs.

- Acquire up to 29,360 acres of State land and 2,140 acres of private land in the Lake Pleasant Cultural Resource Management Area.
- Acquire up to 5,846 acres of State and private lands in the Cordes Junction MRMA.
- Acquire up to 39,433 acres of State and private lands in the Bumble Bee MRMA.
- Acquire up to 23,346 acres of State and private lands in the Williams Mesa MRMA.
- Acquire State land along 4 miles of the Hassayampa River in the Hassayampa River Riparian Management Area (RMA).
- Acquire up to 23,388 acres of State and private lands in the Lake Pleasant Burro Herd Management Area (HMA).
- Acknowledge that the State indemnity selection process has been completed. Lands identified in the RMP are no longer eligible for exchange in that process but may still be open to exchange through other actions with the State or with private entities.
- Identify for disposal all subsurface mineral estate underlying Federal surface designated for disposal outside the two RCAs and the Cultural Resource Management Areas.
- Recommend lands for disposal.
- Change from retention to disposal the parcel in the northern half of T11N, R3E, Section 17.

Utility and Transportation Corridors and Communication Sites

All major utilities would be routed through designated corridors (Map 2-7). Additionally, right-of-way permits would be issued to promote the greatest use of existing right-of-way routes, including joint use whenever possible.

Within the Black Canyon RCA, the Black Canyon utility corridor, designated by the Phoenix RMP (BLM 1988a), would be retained (Map 2-7). It is a multi-use utility and transportation corridor that includes the Interstate 17 right-of-way and other utility lines. The western portion of the corridor is located within the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area.

The multiple-use corridors along existing rights-of-way designated in the Lower Gila North MFP (BLM 1983) (eight of which are within the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area) would be retained, as shown in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1. Use Corridors within Lower Gila North Planning Area

Corridor Name	Width
a. Central Arizona Project (Granite Reef Aqueduct)	One mile
b. Wenden–Wickenburg	One mile
c. Parker–Liberty	Two miles
d. Mead–Phoenix	Two miles
e. Wickenburg-Yarnell	One mile
f. Palo Verde–Devers	Two miles (restricted between Burnt Mountain and Big Horn Mountains)
g. Palo Verde–Westwing	Two miles
h. El Paso Natural Gas Company	Two miles (One mile at Bill Williams River crossing)

The withdrawal application that involves the Central Arizona Project with the Water and Power Resources Service (now the Bureau of Reclamation) would be reviewed. The withdrawal application should be changed to include only areas absolutely necessary for the project. Otherwise the withdrawal application should be lifted, and a right-of-way should be issued for the project.

Small utility distribution systems would continue to be developed on an as-needed basis throughout the planning area. These small distribution systems would include all uses such as electrical lines, gas and water pipelines, and access roads. These distribution systems would

be authorized when consistent with environmental and land use considerations.

Whenever possible, communication sites would be placed on lands identified for disposal. Development of communication facilities on land to be retained in public ownership would be limited to designated communication sites. The current designated communication sites are listed below and would be retained:

- The 50-acre White Tanks Communication Site at T3N, R3W, Sections 27 and 28 that is located outside the RCAs.
- The repeater and microwave site on Harquahala Mountain in T6N, R10W Sections 31 and 32, or T6N, R11W Section 36, but restrict the development to one or two multi-user buildings.

Land Use Authorizations

Continue to issue land use authorizations (rights-of-way, leases, permits, and easements) on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with decisions established in the Phoenix RMP (BLM 1988a).

Continue to allow small utility distribution systems to be developed on an as-needed basis throughout the planning area. These small distribution systems would include all uses such as electrical lines, gas and water pipelines, and associated access roads. These small distribution systems would be authorized when consistent with environmental and land use considerations.

Prohibit land use authorizations in riparian areas in the Hassayampa River RMA and the Bumble Bee and Williams Mesa MRMAs.

2.2.2.3 Soil, Air, and Water Resources

BLM would take the following measures:

- Incorporate salinity control measures into erosion prevention strategies and rehabilitation treatments.
- Ensure the legal availability of water and maintain adequate flows in springs on BLM-administered lands within the Arrastre Creek, Antelope Creek, Weaver Creek, and Harquahala Mountains areas (now wilderness with Federal water rights).
- Initiate strategies for assuring spring flows.
- Maintain and enhance stream flows through activity plans in special management areas.

2.2.2.4 Biological Resources

Design the development of springs and seeps, or other projects affecting water and associated resources, to protect ecological functions and processes.

Cooperate with the AGFD to acquire water rights to maintain or enhance spring and riparian habitats in the planning unit. Specific sites would be determined in a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) to achieve the goals stated in this plan.

Map 2-8 shows the distribution of desert night lizards, Arizona night lizards, and Sonoran Mountain king snakes. Use 43 CFR 3809 (Surface Mining Regulations) to minimize habitat disturbance of these species during new road building associated with mining. New mining plans of operations would provide for closing new roads, when and where needed, to prevent recreation disturbance to night lizard and king snake habitats. Wood collecting would be limited in the Weaver Mountains, particularly along Antelope, Weaver, Arrastre, Cottonwood, and Yarnell Creeks.

Reduce the competition for cover, water, and space among big game, livestock, and burros by decreasing livestock aggregations and removing all burros at waters in the Big Horn, and Harquahala Mountains.

Bighorn sheep lambing areas and a 2-mile buffer zone (20,000 acres) in the Harquahala Mountains would be protected from habitat and behavioral disturbances resulting from (a) land disposal, (b) excess fencing, (c) structure building, (d) land clearing and wood cutting; (e) mining between December 15 and April 15 (within the framework of 43 CFR 3809), (f) road building, (g) intense recreation use and development; (h) rights-of-way construction and maintenance, and (i) more than 40 percent utilization of key browse.

Starting in FY 1983, the significant botanical areas in Arrastre Creek (650 acres), Antelope Creek (600 acres), Weaver Creek (150 acres), and the Harquahala Mountains (7,000 acres) would be protected from habitat disturbances resulting from (a) building of structures, (b) land clearing, (c) mining, (d) road building, and (e) building and maintaining rights-of-way. A grazing system that would prevent intensive livestock use of riparian habitat would be implemented.

Significant cliffs, shown as Raptor Areas in Map 2-5, and a 2-mile zone of influence in the Big Horn Mountains and the Vulture Mountains area would be protected from (a) land disposal, (b) excess fencing, (c) building of structures, (d) land clearing or removal of downed wood or wood cutting, (e) reducing or modifying mining activities to the extent possible under the 43 CFR 3802 and 43 CFR 3809 mining regulations, (f) road building, (g) intense recreation use or development, (h) burro overuse, and (i) rights-of-way construction and maintenance. Special protection in these areas would be provided for disturbances resulting from human activities between February 1 and May 1 of each year.

Protection zones for golden eagle nests would not exceed ¼-mile radius unless a special need for a larger protection zone is determined. These zones would be created on a case-by-case basis.

2.2.2.5 Cultural Resources

Reduce or eliminate indirect impacts from land uses on cultural resources as identified through study plots.

Select cultural resources for allocation through inventory for scientific uses.

Conserve for future use a representative sample of site types in the planning area.

2.2.2.6 Recreation Resources

CRMAs would be jointly developed in master plans between BLM and cooperating agencies. Within the current planning area, CRMAs would include Lake Pleasant and the Black Canyon Trail.

BLM would continue to protect and interpret the Harquahala Peak observatory site.

An interpretive corridor would be established with signing along the Stanton-Octave-Yarnell Road. The signing would begin at the Stanton-Octave turnoff from Highway 89, east to Stanton and then north to Yarnell (T10N, R5W, Sec. 30). Signing would include the identification of creeks, geologic features, and botanic values. Directional signing would be incorporated into the recommended interpretive corridor.

2.2.2.7 Visual Resources

No VRM standards were applied in either the Phoenix RMP (BLM 1988a) or the Lower Gila North MFP. In the absence of management standards established through planning, VRM Class I standards would be applied to designated wilderness and VRM Class III standards would be applied throughout the remaining planning area. Acres of VRM Classes are shown in Table 2-2 and are portrayed on Map 2-9.

Table 2-2. Visual Resource Management Classes by Alternative (BLM acres)

Class	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred)
I	96,820	96,820	109,570	298,310	98,820
II	0	486,800	502,610	340,880	488,250
III	870,180	284,720	260,020	220,790	278,540
IV	0	98,660	94,800	107,020	103,390

For descriptions of the VRM standards, please refer to the Visual Resources discussion of the Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of this chapter.

Public lands in T10N, R4W, Section 26 of the Gila and Salt River Baseline and Meridian would be managed for scenic values (Placerita Mining Camp area).

The public lands in T8N, R5W, Section 12 would be managed for scenic values (Box Canyon).

2.2.2.8 Rangeland Management

Land Use Allocation

Where applicable, livestock grazing would be permitted, under the terms of existing permits and leases. The planning area has 93 grazing authorizations and the existing grazing seasons of use would continue.

Desired Future Condition

Watersheds are in properly functioning condition, including their upland, riparian, and aquatic components. Soil and plant conditions support infiltration, storage, and release of water that are in balance with climate and landform.

Ecological processes would be maintained to support healthy biotic populations and communities.

Management Actions

All previous versions of the grazing administration regulations have been succeeded by the Department of the Interior's Final Rule for Grazing Administration, issued in 1995. This rule requires the implementing of standards and guidelines to achieve the fundamentals of rangeland health. The *Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration* (discussed in the Land Health Standards and Rangeland Management/Grazing sections of Management Common to All Action Alternatives of this chapter) were completed in 1997. The existing allotment boundaries are shown on Map 2-5.

Management would emphasize the use and perpetuation of native species. However, when restoring or rehabilitating disturbed or degraded rangelands; nonintrusive, non-native plant species would be suitable for use where native species:

- are not available,
- are not economically feasible,
- cannot achieve ecological objectives as well as non-native species, and/or
- cannot compete with already established non-native species.

2.2.2.9 Mineral Resource Management

The mineral resources managed by the BLM's Phoenix Field Office (PFO) include more than minerals underlying BLM-managed surface areas. Mineral resource management includes thousands of acres of subsurface mineral estate beneath lands with surface rights held by others. The Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area includes surface acres managed by the PFO and presenting the most serious management challenges at the time. However, for this RMP, the minerals planning area is much larger. It is defined as the federally administered minerals beneath PFO-managed lands that are not planned for within the Sonoran Desert National Monument RMP or Phoenix South RMP revisions, and where the surface rights are held by BLM, the State of Arizona, or private parties. Therefore, the minerals planning area, as shown on Map 1-2, extends far to the north and east beyond Agua Fria National Monument and the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area boundaries. Map 2-10, shows areas of current minerals management within the Agua Fria National Monument and the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area.

Management Actions

Leasable Minerals

Restrict any actions or withdrawal in the planning area that would segregate leasable minerals unless there is strong evidence that the area is not conducive to mineralization.

All land in the planning area would remain open to mineral leasing. Should exploration or development of leasable minerals be pursued, special stipulations would be incorporated into the lease agreement after the results of site-specific environmental assessments for each action are known.

Mineral withdrawals within ACECs are subject to valid existing rights. The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing effective on the date they were created. Unless stated otherwise, non-Federal lands acquired within an ACEC will be closed to the operation of the mining laws, and expired leases may not be renewed.

Surface occupancy for oil and gas development would be prohibited in riparian areas of the Bumble Bee and Williams Mesa MRMAs, and the Hassayampa RMA.

Federally administered minerals beneath lands addressed in this plan, where the surface rights are held by BLM, the State of Arizona, or private parties (Map 2-10), would be open to exploration and leasing.

Saleable Minerals

Sales of mineral materials to the public would continue to be administered on a case-by-case basis under 43 CFR 3600. Generally, saleable minerals are sold at market prices. Free-use permits would continue to be issued to the State and local communities as the need arises.

Mineral withdrawals within ACECs are subject to valid existing rights. The ACEC would be closed to mineral sales effective on the date they were created. Unless stated otherwise, non-Federal lands acquired within an ACEC will be closed to the operation of the mining laws.

Demand for saleable minerals will be met by sales or free use permits on a case-by-case basis.

Allow development of sites for saleable minerals where they do not conflict with Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) or proposed ACEC designations.

Federally administered minerals beneath lands addressed in this planning effort, where the surface rights are held by BLM, the State of Arizona, or private parties (Map 2-10) would be open to mineral material disposal on a case-by-case basis, with determinations based on consistency with BLM's management policies and objectives.

Locatable Minerals

Exploration for and development of locatable minerals are provided for under the 43 CFR 3802 and 43 CFR 3809. These regulations provide for mineral development in conjunction with resource protection and are designed to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation of the environment from mining. Mining within the planning area would continue to be administered on a case-by-case basis. The planning area would generally be left open to mineral location and development.

Mineral withdrawals within ACECs are subject to valid existing rights. The ACEC would be closed to mining claim location upon approval of the plan creating the ACEC. Unless otherwise stated, non-Federal lands acquired within an ACEC would be closed to the operation of the mining laws. Mining claims within an ACEC may be examined for validity and contested if appropriate, as determined by the BLM State Director. The Lower Gila MFP (BLM 1983) recommended withdrawal of proposed ACECs from mineral entry. This recommendation was not implemented.

Minimize detrimental impacts of mineral exploration and development to habitat in the 2000-acre basin east and south of Harquahala Peak. Use surface protection measures as outlined in 43 CFR 3802 and 43 CFR 3809. Require a Mining Plan of Operation for all mining operations proposing to disturb 5 acres or more. Require performance bonds from all owner/operators to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation. Review leaching operations for environmental and human safety by the State Mine Inspector before commencement or upon suspension of the operator's license in accordance with Arizona Revised Statute (ARS) 27-303.

Federally administered minerals beneath lands addressed in this planning, where the surface rights are held by BLM, the State of Arizona, or private parties (Map 2-10) would be open to exploration and leasing.

2.2.2.10 Fire Management

Wildfire responses would be full suppression in all areas. Full suppression means taking sustained and appropriate action to promptly suppress wildfires.

2.2.2.11 Wild Horses and Burros

In 1971, following the passage of the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act (WHBA), BLM was required to designate areas where wild horses and burros existed before 1971. No wild horses are known to have been within either the monument or the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area in 1971.

BLM manages burros on public land at the minimum level needed to ensure the herd's free-roaming character, health, and self-sustaining ability. Burro Herd Areas (HAs) and Herd Management Areas (HMAs) are shown on Map 2-5.

BLM classified the Lake Pleasant Area as a HMA and the Harquahala Mountains as a HA with a "zero burro population." The latter decision was based on conflicts in the area with private landowners, agricultural interests, wildlife such as bighorn sheep, and other resources. A zero burro population required removing all burros from the mountain range. Funding, however, was not provided and the burros have not yet been removed. Nuisance burros would be removed on a case-by-case basis.

Managing the 80,800-acre Lake Pleasant Burro HMA would continue in the manner described in the current herd management plan. In the 156,255 acre Harquahala HA, nuisance burros would continue to be removed on a case-by-case basis. If funding is received, burros would be removed from the HA.

2.2.2.12 Resource Conservation Areas and Multiple Resource Management Areas

Two RCAs, one RMA, and three MRMAs would remain under current management under *Alternative A*. These areas are listed below with management decisions and shown on Map 2-4.

- Black Canyon RCA (115,650 acres).
- Lake Pleasant RCA (297,080 acres).
- Bumble Bee MRMA (52,270 acres) - Develop an activity plan; prohibit surface occupancy of oil and gas leases in riparian zones; prohibit land use authorizations in riparian areas; limit motorized vehicles to existing roads and trails; acquire land.
- Cordes Junction MRMA (10,810 acres) - Develop an activity plan; prohibit surface occupancy of oil and gas leases in riparian zones; prohibit land use authorizations in riparian areas; limit motorized vehicles to existing roads and trails; acquire land.
- Williams Mesa MRMA (59,740 acres) - Develop an activity plan; prohibit surface occupancy of oil and gas leases in riparian zones; prohibit land use authorizations in riparian areas; close 3.5 miles of Tule Creek to motorized vehicles, elsewhere limited to existing roads and trails; and acquire land.
- Hassayampa River RMA - 12 miles.

Vulture Mine Road from Highway 60 south to the Vulture Mine would be designated as a scenic drive, including a scenic 1/2 mile corridor on either side of the road.

BLM would interpret, through signing; the existing scenic, geologic, and botanic values in T6N, R5W, Section 6.

Motorized vehicles would be limited to existing roads and trails in the Cordes Junction MRMA. A total of 3.5 miles of Tule Creek would be closed to motorized vehicles. However, in the Williams Mesa MRMA, motorized vehicles would be limited to existing roads and trails.

Motorized vehicles would be limited to existing roads and trails in the Hassayampa River RMA.

2.2.2.13 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

OHV Designations (Map 2-11)

Within the area covered by the Phoenix RMP (BLM 1988a), vehicular travel would be limited to existing roads and motorized routes in use in 1988, except for areas closed or limited to designated roads and routes. The areas covered by the Lower Gila North MFP (BLM 1983) would be generally open to vehicular travel, except for areas specifically closed to such access. The five designated wilderness areas would remain closed to all forms of motorized vehicles and mechanized uses.

Motorized vehicles would be limited to existing roads and motorized routes in the Cordes Junction and Williams Mesa MRMAs. Motorized vehicles would be limited to designated roads and trails in the Bumble Bee MRMA. A 3.5-mile portion of Tule Creek would be closed to motorized vehicles.

Off-road vehicle use would be limited to existing roads, motorized vehicle trails, and washes in the Hassayampa River. The portion of the river within Hassayampa River Canyon Wilderness would remain closed to all forms of motorized vehicles and mechanized uses.

Management Action

A hiking and a horseback riding trail system would be established near Wickenburg. The width and exact routing of the trail would be determined through close consultation with the concerned public. The trail would be marked by

standard trail markers, and hazard warnings would be installed where needed.

BLM would work with the Desert Caballeros of Wickenburg to establish a trail system between Wickenburg and Wagoner to ensure continuous management on public lands.

2.3 Alternative B

The following discussion, with the Desired Future Conditions, land use allocations, and management actions described in the Management Common to All Action Alternatives section of this chapter, constitute proposed *Alternative B*.

2.3.1 Agua Fria National Monument

The overall theme of *Alternative B* is to plan for increased public use and include more recreation-related development, access, and education interpretation, consistent with protecting monument resources. Developed recreation is addressed by establishing a Front Country RMZ, while a Back Country RMZ would be established to retain primitive landscape values in the Agua Fria River Canyon and its tributary canyons. Selected archaeological sites would be made available for increased public visitation by allocating areas for relatively intensive and Moderate public use. Access would be allowed for visitors' opportunities, including use of existing vehicle routes. Grazing would remain similar to current management, but grazing within riparian areas would be limited to winter (November 1 to March 1).

2.3.1.1 Special Area Designations

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

No more ACECs are proposed by *Alternative B*, and the existing Perry Mesa and Larry Canyon ACECs (Map 2-2) would be removed from designation because the national monument proclamation (Appendix A - Agua Fria National Monument Proclamation) establishes a higher level of protection and management across a more extensive landscape.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Reaches of the Agua Fria River that have been determined to be suitable for WSR status would be managed in a way that does not degrade the values defining their suitability.

Back Country Byways

A back country byway would be evaluated for Bloody Basin Road and nominated if standards and requirements are met (Map 2-12).

Desired Future Condition

The back country byway would provide a vehicle-based, back country experience with amenities to heighten visitors' experiences, and to educate/inform them about interesting natural/cultural features along the route. Visitors could expect the road to be occasionally difficult and settings to be remote. The road might not be accessible to all classes of vehicle. High clearance might be needed to traverse the whole route. The area 1/2 mile to either side of the road's centerline would be maintained in a semi-primitive motorized recreation setting, except at the La Plata Cultural site where the desired setting will be more like roaded natural, should it be further developed for public use.

Management Actions

Maintenance would conform to BLM's Level 2 standards (BLM 9100 Manual) and be passable by high-clearance vehicles.

VRM Allocations to achieve the Desired Future Conditions are described in section 2.3.1.6 Visual Resources.

BLM would acquire easements and rights-of-way where needed to ensure long-term public access.

Monument features along the route would be interpreted, including prehistoric cultural features, historic homesteads, settlements, and ranching history.

Directional, safety, and interpretive signing would be installed to enhance public use, enjoyment, and stewardship of the route.

Administrative Actions

Develop a cooperative and a collaborative site plan with landowners and other agencies that would be affected by the byway designation.

2.3.1.2 Lands and Realty

Land Use Allocations

Utility and Transportation Corridors

Management Actions

The existing utility corridor (designated by the Phoenix RMP [BLM 1988a] in the Black Canyon RCA) would be narrowed so that the eastern boundary of the utility corridor would follow the easternmost boundaries of any existing right-of-way that is or are currently within the corridor identified in the Phoenix RMP (Map 2-13).

2.3.1.3 Biological Resources

Under *Alternative B,* wildlife habitat management would continue under current management, except the existing Larry Canyon ACEC would be eliminated because the national monument proclamation (Appendix A) provides for a higher level of protection and management across a more extensive landscape.

2.3.1.4 Cultural Resources

Alternative B would include development of access, interpretive facilities, and interpretive media for selected archaeological sites in the monument (Map 2-14, Multiple Resource Allocation). These archaeological sites would be allocated to SCRMAs focused on varying levels of public use, as described in the Cultural Resources section of Management Common to Agua Fria National Monument and shown in Table 2-3 SCRMAs.

Table 2-3. Alternative B: Cultural Resource Public-Use Areas

Level of Public Use	Locations/Sites
High	Pueblo la Plata and Fort Silver (Pueblo la Plata Complex) Badger Springs Pueblo, the Arrastra site, Badger Springs rock art, and the Rollie site.
Moderate	Baby Canyon Pueblo and Pueblo Pato Richinbar Ruin The historic Teskey homestead near the Agua Fria River.
Low	Public use of archaeological sites would be limited in all other areas not described above.

High use represents the most intensive degree of interpretive development associated with a SCRMA, and Moderate use involves less intensive development of access and interpretive facilities. All areas of the monument not shown as High or Moderate use SCRMAs on Map 2-14 would be considered areas of Low public use that are not available for on-the-ground interpretive development or commercial tours.

2.3.1.5 Recreation Resources

In *Alternative B*, the entire monument would be allocated to a Special Recreation Management Area with three Recreation Management Zones

within it. These zones would include a Back Country RMZ (12,700 acres) to manage and maintain the natural landscape character in the Agua Fria River Canyon and tributary washes (Map 2-14). A Passage RMZ (300 acres) would be created along vehicle routes designated as open to allow motorized access to and through the Back Country. The remainder of the monument would be designated a Front Country RMZ of 57,900 acres, where more focus could be placed on recreation and interpretive opportunities. Desired future conditions (DFC) for these zones can be found in the Recreation and Public Access discussion of the Management Common to Agua Fria National Monument section of this chapter.

Land Use Allocation

Front Country Recreation Management Zone (57,900 acres)

Desired Future Condition

See Desired Future Condition description in section 2.7.2.7 of the Management Common to Agua Fria National Monument section of this chapter.

Management Actions

VRM Allocations to achieve the Desired Future Conditions of this Recreation Management Zone are described in section 2.3.1.6.

Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) and Concessions:

- Up to 12 SRPs would be authorized within the monument each year. These SRPs might include any combination of the following:
    - Commercial (e.g. jeep tours, outfitters),
    - Commercial special events, and
    - Concommercial special events.
- If consistent with monument values and objectives, recreation concession leases and vendor permits would be issued to enhance visitor use. Concessions and vending permits would be considered on a case-by-case basis, with determinations based on consistency with management objectives and clearly demonstrated needs.

Dispersed Camping:

- Camping permits could be required if resource damage occurs that inhibits achieving resource DFCs, threatens resources protected by proclamation, or if health and safety issues emerge. If damage continues, more limitations might be required, including temporary or permanent area closures; limiting camping to designated sites, seasonal limitations, or closures.
- Camping would be prohibited within 1/4 mile of a developed campground.
- Camping would be prohibited at archaeological sites, including petroglyphs (rock art) sites.
- Camping would be allowed if at least 1/4 mile from intense or moderate public-use archaeological sites.
- Camping would be prohibited within 1/4 mile from water sources "...containing water in such a place that wildlife or domestic stock will be denied access to the only reasonably available water (Arizona Revised Statute 17-308, Unlawful Camping).
- Dispersed camping could be limited to certain designated areas if resource damage occurs.

Developed Campgrounds:

- Two campgrounds would be developed--one at Badger Springs and one along Bloody Basin Road.
- The campgrounds would each be limited to 20 campsites, each with a picnic table, fire ring, and ramada.
- Potable water would be developed if practical.
- Restroom facilities would be provided to address health and sanitation issues.

Campfires:

- Campfires would be prohibited within ¼ mile of intensive and moderate public-use archaeological sites.
- Campfires would be prohibited at archaeological sites, including petroglyphs (rock art) sites.
- Campfires would be prohibited within ¼ mile of a developed campground. In campgrounds, campfires would be allowed only in campfire rings.
- Campfires would be prohibited within 200 feet of a public area, such as a trail or other facilities.
- Campfires would be allowed at dispersed campsites.
- Firewood could be collected only for campfire use. Visitors could collect dead, down, and detached material only for campfires. Vegetation use and disturbance would be monitored, and this use might be temporarily or permanently suspended to prevent resource damage.

Recreational Target Shooting:

- Targets need to be of a type and material that will not produce litter and must be cleaned up after use.
- Spent shell casings have to be cleaned up after use.
- Shooting would be managed to reduce resource degradation, to reduce social conflicts, and to provide for public safety.
- Shooting would be prohibited within ½ mile of identified areas where people congregate, including trailheads, campgrounds, interpretive sites, kiosks, and other high-use sites.

Trail Construction for Non-motorized Recreation Use

Discussion of recreation trail development can be found in section 2.3.1.8.

Land Use Allocation

Back Country Recreation Management Zone of 12,700 acres

Desired Future Condition

See Desired Future Condition description in section 2.7.2.7 of the Management Common to Agua Fria National Monument section of this chapter

Management Actions

VRM Allocations to achieve the Desired Future Conditions of this Recreation Management Zone are described in section 2.3.1.6.

SRPs and Concessions:

- Up to 12 SRPs would be authorized within the monument each year. The SRPs might include any combination of the following:
    - Commercial (e.g. hunting outfitter/guides),
    - Commercial special events, and
    - Noncommercial special events.
- If consistent with monument values and objectives, recreation concession leases and vendor permits would be issued to enhance visitor use, visitor services, visitor safety, and visitor enjoyment. Concessions and vending permits would be considered on a case-by-case basis, with determinations based on consistency with management objectives and clearly demonstrated needs.

Dispersed Camping:

- Camping permits could be required if resource damage occurs that inhibits achieving resource DFCs or threatens resources protected by proclamation, or if health and safety issues emerge. If damage continues, more limitations might be required, including temporary or permanent area

closures, limiting camping to designated sites, or seasonal limitations or closures.
- Dispersed camping would be prohibited within ¼ mile of a developed campground.
- Dispersed camping would be prohibited at archaeological sites, including petroglyphs (rock art) sites.
- Dispersed camping would be allowed if at least ¼ mile from intense or moderate public-use archaeological sites.
- Camping would be prohibited within ¼ mile from water sources "...containing water in such a place that wildlife or domestic stock will be denied access to the only reasonably available water (Arizona Revised Statute 17-308, Unlawful Camping).

Developed Campgrounds:

- None.

Campfires:

- Campfires would be prohibited within ¼ mile of intensive and moderate public-use archaeological sites.
- Campfires would be prohibited on archaeological sites, including petroglyphs (rock art) sites.
- Campfires would be prohibited within ¼ mile of a developed campground.
- Campfires would be prohibited within 200 feet of a trail or other public use facility.
- Campfires would be allowed at dispersed campsites.
- Firewood collection would be limited to campfire use only. Collecting dead, down, and detached material would be allowed for campfire firewood. Vegetation use and disturbance would be monitored, and firewood collecting might be temporarily or permanently suspended to prevent resource damage.

Recreational Target Shooting:

- Targets need to be of a type and material that will not produce litter and must be cleaned up after use.
- Spent shells have to be cleaned up after use.
- Shooting would be managed to reduce resource degradation, to reduce social conflicts, and to provide for public safety.
- Shooting would be prohibited within ½ mile of identified areas where people congregate, including trailheads, campgrounds, interpretive sites, kiosks, and other high-use sites.

Trail Construction for Non-motorized Recreation Use

Discussion of recreation trail development can be found in section 2.3.1.8.

Land Use Allocation

The Passage Recreation Management Zone would consist of 300 acres.

Desired Future Condition

See Desired Future Condition description in section 2.7.2.7 of the Management Common to Agua Fria National Monument section of this chapter.

Management Actions

VRM Allocations to achieve the Desired Future Conditions of this Recreation Management Zone are described in section 2.3.1.6.

River crossings at Kelton Ranch, EZ Ranch, Horseshoe Ranch, and Cross Y Ranch would be maintained.

SRPs and Concessions:

- Up to 12 SRPs would be authorized within the monument each year. These SRPs might include any combination of the following:

  - Commercial (e.g. jeep tours, outfitters).
  - Commercial special events, and
  - Noncommercial special events.
- If consistent with monument values and objectives, recreation concession leases and vendor permits would be issued to enhance visitor use, visitor services, visitor safety, and visitor enjoyment. Concessions and vending permits would be considered on a case-by-case basis, with determinations based on consistency with management objectives and clear, demonstrated need.

Dispersed Camping:

- Camping permits could be required if resource damage occurs that inhibits achieving resource DFCs or threatens resources protected by proclamation, or if health and safety issues emerge. If damage continues, more limitations might be required, including temporary or permanent area closures, limiting camping to designated sites, or seasonal limitations or closures.
- Dispersed camping would be prohibited within ¼ mile of a developed campground.
- Dispersed camping would be prohibited at archaeological sites, including petroglyphs (rock art) sites.
- Dispersed camping would be allowed if at least ¼ mile from intense or moderate public-use archaeological sites.
- Camping would be prohibited within ¼ mile from water sources "...containing water in such a place that wildlife or domestic stock will be denied access to the only reasonably available water (Arizona Revised Statute 17-308, Unlawful Camping).
- Dispersed camping could be limited to designated areas if resource damage occurs.

Developed Campgrounds:

- None.

Campfires:

- Campfires would be prohibited within ¼ mile of intensive and moderate public-use archaeological sites.
- Campfires would be prohibited on archaeological sites, including petroglyphs (rock art) sites.
- Campfires would be prohibited within ¼ mile of a developed campground.
- Campfires would be allowed at dispersed campsites.
- Firewood collection would be limited to campfire use only. Collecting dead, down, and detached material would be allowed for campfire firewood. Vegetation use and disturbance would be monitored, and this use might be temporarily or permanently suspended to prevent resource damage.

Recreational Target Shooting:

- Targets need to be of a type and material that will not produce litter and must be cleaned up after use.
- Spent shell casings would need to be cleaned up after use.
- Shooting would be managed to reduce resource degradation, to reduce social conflicts, and to provide for public safety.
- Shooting would be prohibited within 1/2 mile of identified areas where people congregate, including trailheads, campgrounds, interpretive sites, kiosks, and other high-use sites.

Trail Construction for Non-motorized Recreational Use

Discussion of recreation trail development can be found in section 2.3.1.8.

Administrative Actions

Site-specific baseline data for assessing the effects of dispersed camping would be collected, and a monitoring process developed so change

can be detected and resource damage determinations can be made.

Baseline data would also be collected to determine environmental and social impacts of recreational target shooting. The data would be used to determine the effects that are now occurring and to establish standards for future management. A monitoring plan would be developed to detect change. Unacceptable impacts to monument resources and public safety concerns could result in further management actions ranging from increased restrictions to closure.

2.3.1.6 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative B* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-15.

Within the Agua Fria National Monument, allocate:

- Front Country and Passage RMZs to VRM Class III.
- Back Country RMZ to VRM Class II.
- 1/2 mile either side of Bloody Basin Road Back Country Byway to VRM Class II.
- Utility corridors would be allocated to VRM Class III.

2.3.1.7 Rangeland Management

Land Use Allocation

Eleven grazing authorizations would continue to be administered within Agua Fria National Monument.

Desired Future Condition

Watersheds are in properly functioning conditions, including their upland, riparian, and aquatic components. Soil and plant conditions support infiltration, storage, and release of water that are in balance with climate and landform.

Ecological processes are maintained to support healthy biotic populations and communities.

Standard 2 of the *Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health* (Land Health Standards) would be achieved within 5 years in all riparian areas where livestock grazing precluded achieving that standard

Management Actions

Livestock grazing in riparian areas would be limited to the winter (November 1 to March 1).

Inventory and/or Monitoring studies will be used to determine if adjustments to permitted use levels, terms and conditions and management practices are necessary in order to meet and/or make significant progress towards meeting the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and other Land Use Plan Objectives.

Fence construction and maintenance will follow guidance provided in BLM's Handbook for Fencing H-1741.

2.3.1.8 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

The entire monument is allocated as Limited to Designated Routes (Map 2-16).

Management Actions

Cross-country motorized travel is prohibited except in the case of an emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

Within Front Country

Trail Construction for Non-motorized Recreation Use:

- Trails would be developed as needed to enhance resources, recreation experiences, and to protect monument values.
- All construction would be compatible with Desired Future Conditions for the construction area.
- Trails would be designed to blend into the environment.
- Loop, connector, and linear trails would be built to meet recreation, access, and resource objectives.
- Trails to maintain connectivity to recreation opportunities such as hunting, hiking, equestrian use, and viewing cultural sites could be considered.
- Trails to provide linkage with other connector trails beyond the border of the monument would also be considered.
- Opportunities to link networks of non-motorized trails within the monument to those outside the monument on other BLM's lands, or with other adjacent jurisdictions, including Tonto and Prescott National Forests, Yavapai County, and local communities, would be explored where they are consistent with monument values and do not impair protection of monument resources.

Route Construction for Motorized Use:

- New vehicular routes would be considered on a case-by-case basis, with determinations based on protection and enhancement of monument values.
- If monument values are not compromised, routes would also be considered for connectivity and to provide for greater access to recreation opportunities.
- Bloody Basin and Badger Springs Roads would be maintained minimally to at least a BLM Level 3 standard (BLM 9100 Manual) to provide safety for public use.
- Loop routes for interpretive opportunities for all-terrain vehicle (ATV) travel would be evaluated.

Off-Highway Vehicles:

- All vehicles would be limited to designated routes consistent with the discussion in the Management Common to Agua Fria National Monument, in section 2.7.2.10.
- OHV access would be managed to provide for a variety of use experiences, including access for public visitation of the monument's cultural and biological resources.

Within Back Country

Trail Construction for Non-motorized Recreation Use

- Trails would be developed as needed to enhance resources and recreation experiences, and protect monument values.
- All construction would be compatible with Desired Future Conditions for the construction area.
- Trails would be designed to blend into the environment.
- Loop, connector, and linear trails would be built to meet recreation, access, and resource objectives.
- Trails to maintain connectivity to recreation opportunities such as hunting, hiking, equestrian use, and viewing cultural sites would be considered.
- Trails to provide linkage with other connector trails beyond the border of the monument would also be considered.
- Opportunities to link networks of non-motorized trails within the monument to those outside the monument on other BLM's lands, or with other adjacent jurisdictions, including Tonto and Prescott National Forests, Yavapai County, and local communities, would be explored where they are consistent with monument values and do not impair protection of monument resources.

- Non-motorized trails might be built to provide access to core use areas. They may consist of minimal trail tread development or routes marked only by low impact posts such as fiberglass with minimal ground disturbance.

Route Construction for Motorized Use:

- No new routes would be built within the Back Country RMZ except to mitigate resource conflicts.
- If analysis determines new route construction is needed to mitigate resource conflicts but to maintain necessary access, the Passage RMZ would be adjusted to incorporate the redesigned route network.

Off-Highway Vehicles:

- The Back Country RMZ would be managed as a non-motorized area.

Within Passage

Trail Construction for Non-motorized Recreation Use:

- Trails would be developed as needed to enhance resources and recreation experiences, and protect monument values.
- All construction would be compatible with Desired Future Conditions for the construction area.
- Trails would be designed to blend into the environment.
- Loop, connector, and linear trails would be built to meet recreation, access, and resource objectives.
- Trails to maintain connectivity to recreation opportunities, such as hunting, hiking, equestrian use, and viewing cultural sites could be considered.
- Trails to provide linkage with other connector trails beyond the border of the monument could also be considered.
- Opportunities to link networks of non-motorized trails within the monument to those outside the monument on other BLM's lands, or with other adjacent jurisdictions, including Tonto and Prescott National Forests, Yavapai County, and local communities, would be explored where they are consistent with monument values and do not impair protection of monument resources.

Route Construction for Motorized Use:

- No new routes would be built within the Passage RMZ except to mitigate resource conflicts.
- If analysis determines new route construction is needed to mitigate resource conflicts but maintain necessary access, the Passage RMZ would be adjusted to incorporate the redesigned route network.

Off-Highway Vehicles:

- All vehicles would be limited to designated routes consistent with the discussion in the Management Common to Agua Fria National Monument in section 2.7.2.10.
- OHV access would be managed to provide for a variety of use experiences, especially to provide access for public visitation of cultural and biological resources of the monument.

Implementation Actions

Public Access

An evaluation tree review process, as described in Appendix D, was used to establish a designated public access and route system to support resource objectives consistent with *Alternative B* and to protect monument resources. The results of the evaluation are shown in Map 2-17, and a summary of route status and quantity is shown below:

Routes Open 140 miles

Routes Closed 38 miles

New Routes 5 miles

2.3.2 Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area

The overall theme for *Alternative B* for the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area emphasizes resource use and development, while ensuring that resource protection is not compromised. This Alternative includes both developed and primitive recreation by establishing SRMAs and lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics, as well as developed public use of cultural resources. Wildlife habitats and grazing would remain similar to current management, with a change of riparian pasture use to winter season. Areas would remain open to mining. The number of utility corridors would increase, and corridors would be widened. VRM objectives would be set based on management activities and land uses being provided for in a specific area so that they may be achieved within the VRM Class objective being set. Access within the planning area would be increased more than under the other Alternatives. The MUs for *Alternative B* are shown in Map 2-18.

2.3.2.1 Management Applicable to the Entire Bradshaw-Harquahala under this Alternative

2.3.2.1.1 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

Lands potentially suitable for disposal by sale or exchange would consist of parcels outside the MUs that are not within a land use allocation (Map 2-19). Other criteria limiting which lands might be selected for disposal are described in Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of this chapter in the discussion under section 2.7.1.2, 58,400 acres would potentially be suitable for disposal. Of these 58,400 acres, 5,200 acres are scattered parcels outside the planning area boundaries but have been included in the current planning effort.

Lands that would be considered for potential acquisition would include State and private lands (willing seller) within the planning area. When acquired, these lands would be managed consistently with the resource management prescriptions outlined in this land use plan that apply to other nearby BLM's lands. These lands would meet the criteria described under the Management Common to Both Planning Areas in the discussion under Lands and Realty as well as program objectives reflected in Alternative B.

Utility and Transportation Corridors

New utility corridors within the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area (Map 2-20) would be designated for future expected demands. These designations would respond to the demand for the intensification of the power grid and would be consistent with the utility regulations of the Arizona Corporation Commission.

2.3.2.1.2 Rangeland Management

Land Use Allocation

A total of 93 grazing authorizations would continue to be administered within the planning area.

Desired Future Condition

Watersheds are in properly functioning conditions, including their upland, riparian, and aquatic components. Soil and plant conditions support infiltration, storage, and release of water that are in balance with climate and landform.

Ecological processes are maintained to support healthy biotic populations and communities.

Standard 2 of the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health *(*Land Health Standards) would be achieved within five years in all riparian areas where livestock grazing precluded achievement of that standard.

Management Actions

Livestock grazing in riparian areas would be limited to winter (November 1 to March 1). This restriction would be implemented where BLM can effect a change and where grazing is precluding achievement of the Desired Plant Community (DPC). Grazing allotment boundaries are shown in *Alternative B* on Map 2-21.

On unfenced allotments, livestock control fences and alternate water sources would be built where needed to meet natural resource objectives.

Fence construction and maintenance will follow guidance provided in BLM's Handbook for Fencing H-1741.

2.3.2.1.3 Mineral Resource Management

Maps 2-22, 2-23, and Map 2-24, show the minerals management areas proposed under *Alternative B* that are within the Agua Fria National Monument and the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Areas. The following descriptions of mineral types include information on any mining closures.

Management Actions

Leasable Minerals

Lands reconveyed to the Federal Government, which are now closed to leasing, would be opened under the Mineral Leasing Act. In addition, all other lands would be open for mineral leasing and exploration except (1) lands with existing segregations or withdrawals, and (2) the Tule Creek ACEC, which would be closed to mineral leasing.

Leases would be issued with special stipulations to protect resources. Stipulations to protect important surface values would be based on interdisciplinary review of individual proposals and environmental analyses.

Saleable Minerals (Mineral Materials)

Lands reconveyed to the Federal Government and now closed to mineral material disposal would be opened under applicable laws. In addition, except for legislatively withdrawn areas, other withdrawn areas, and segregated areas; all public lands within the planning area would be open to mineral material disposal on a case-by-case basis.

The Tule Creek ACEC and lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics would be closed to mineral material disposal.

Locatable Minerals

Lands reconveyed to the Federal Government that are now closed to mineral entry would be opened to location under the mining laws. All small tract lands would be opened to location under the mining laws. In addition, all other lands would be opened for location except: (1) lands with existing segregations or withdrawals and (2) the Tule Creek ACEC, which is recommended for closure to location under the mining laws.

2.3.2.1.4 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

All public lands in the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area would be allocated as limited use areas, with motorized and mechanized vehicle use limited to designated routes. The Hassayampa River Canyon, Hells Canyon, Harquahala Mountains, Big Horn Mountains, and Hummingbird Spring Wildernesses would

remain closed to motorized and mechanized use as shown in Map 2-16.

Desired Future Conditions

Define, designate, implement, and monitor a comprehensive travel management network affording a range of high-quality and diverse motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities. The network would consist of a system of areas, roads, routes, and/or trails. The travel management network and associated recreation opportunities would be consistent with other resource management objectives and recreation settings for the area.

Management Actions

Limit all vehicles to designated routes. Cross-country motorized travel will not be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

Implementation Actions

An evaluation process, similar to one described in Appendix D, will be used to establish a designated public access and route system to support resource objectives consistent with *Alternative B.*

Develop comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management Plans for the Management Units and other public lands within the planning area. These plans would implement route designations on the public lands.

2.3.2.2 Management Units

Under *Alternative B,* five MUs are identified as geographical units for presenting the land use allocations. These units are summarized with their land use allocations and management actions in the following section.

The document sections discussing the five Management Units and the maps on which they appear are as follows:

- 2.3.2.2.1 Black Canyon Management Unit, Map 2-25.
- 2.3.2.2.2 Castle Hot Springs Management Unit, Map 2-26.
- 2.3.2.2.3 Hassayampa Management Unit, Map 2-27.
- 2.3.2.2.4 Harquahala Management Unit, Map 2-28.
- 2.3.2.2.5 Harcuvar Management Unit, Map 2-29.

Allocations outside MUs are discussed in section 2.3.2.2.6 and shown on Map 2-30. As noted, areas within the MUs that do not receive specific land use allocations would be administered according to the DFC and management actions presented under Management Units and in the Management Common to All Action Alternatives section of this chapter.

2.3.2.2.1 Black Canyon Management Unit

The Black Canyon MU stretches from the southern end of Table Mesa in the south to Cordes Junction in the north. It is bounded by Agua Fria National Monument and Tonto National Forest on the east and the Prescott National Forest on the west as shown on Map 2-25. The MU contains the following land:

- 68,730 acres of BLM-administered lands.
- 12,600 acres of Arizona State land.
- 6,780 acres of private land.
- 1,100 acres of county park lands in both Maricopa and Yavapai Counties.

2.3.2.2.1.1 Special Area Designations

Special area designations would not be made within the Black Canyon MU.

2.3.2.2.1.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

No lands have been identified as available for disposal.

Communication Sites

This MU has only one designated communication site, the Black Canyon City communication site, which would be retained and subject to valid existing rights.

Utility and Transportation Corridors

The portion of the Black Canyon corridor to the west of Interstate 17 would be widened for viable future utility development. The western boundary of the corridor would be adjusted to be 1 mile west of the true center of I-17 (as defined by the center of the median), shown in Map 2-20.

2.3.2.2.1.3 Biological Resources

No additional areas would be allocated for biological resources within this MU.

2.3.2.2.1.4 Cultural Resources

Land Use Allocations

Black Mesa/Bumble Bee SCRMA and Black Canyon SCRMA

Desired Future Condition

The Black Canyon MU has a variety of prehistoric and historic sites that could be used for interpretation, educational purposes, and public visitation. For further information on public use of cultural resources, see Appendix E.

Management Actions

A combination of some or all of following actions could be implemented at selected sites:

- building visitors' facilities such as parking areas, platforms, restrooms, picnic tables, benches, or trash receptacles,
- installing signs along routes and trails to direct visitors to interpreted sites,
- building hardened walking trails,
- installing interpretive signs and register boxes, and
- preparing brochures and related educational materials or programs.

Actions would be implemented to stabilize, repair, and maintain sites in good condition.

Commercial and noncommercial group tours could be authorized as long as they were conducted with protective stipulations in accordance with BLM's regulations and, where required, special recreation permits.

Administrative Actions

Specific sites for public use would be selected by considering the following factors:

- the presence of aboveground features of interest to the public and suitable for interpretive development,
- accessibility to communities, travel routes, and recreation trails,
- the condition of the site and the feasibility of stabilizing selected areas or features to withstand visitation,
- visitor safety considerations,
- compatibility with other land uses and site values, such as traditional use by Native Americans,
- feasibility of regular inspections by BLM’s staff and volunteers, and
- partnership opportunities for interpretive and educational projects.

The BLM's recreation program would participate in developing sites for public use.

BLM would cooperate with agencies, tribes, and local communities in supporting heritage tourism programs that benefit local economies. Historic properties for heritage

tourism would be developed to contribute to their long-term preservation and productive use.

BLM would continue to work with the Site Steward Program to regularly monitor the condition of sites.

2.3.2.2.1.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocations

Table Mesa SRMA

Desired Future Condition

Manage for intensive camping, OHV use, equestrian activities, and casual use mining. The SRMA would offer a diverse network of motorized single and two-track routes for general motorized recreation use, commercial use, and organized OHV events.

Emphasize acceptable dust control and compatibility with neighboring communities and landowners.

Emphasize semi-primitive motorized and roaded-natural recreation settings. Users would be concentrated in some areas.

Develop facilities with a variety of amenities consistent with the desired recreation setting. Visitors could expect contact with BLM's representatives daily or more often. Nonintrusive signing would be present in most of the SRMA.

Management Actions

Using a structured evaluation process, designate vehicle routes within this SRMA for general motorized recreation use, commercial use, and organized OHV events that are consistent with, and help achieve, all Desired Future Conditions for the area.

Locate and develop a staging and camping area for the following purposes:

- meeting the high recreation demand,
- parking and unloading OHVs,
- overnight camping,
- event operations,
- informational signing,
- dust abatement, and
- human health and safety.

Limit to 20 acres the area of exposed barren soil.

Limit the number of motorized competitive races to 2 per year.

Prohibit recreational target shooting within the SRMA.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.3.2.2.1.6.

Land Use Allocations

All remaining land within the Management Unit would be allocated to an Extensive Recreation Management Area.

Administrative Actions

Determine specific areas where comprehensive site assessments would be initiated to do the following:

- determine existing physical and social impacts of recreation activities,
- define desired conditions and standards, and
- establish monitoring plans to manage camping and other recreation uses.

2.3.2.2.1.6 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative B* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-15.

Within the Black Canyon Management Unit:

- the Table Mesa SRMA and an area west and north of Cordes Lakes would be allocated to VRM Class III,
- an area surrounding Black Canyon City would be allocated to VRM Class IV,
- utility corridors would be allocated to VRM Class III or IV, and
- the rest of the Management Unit would be allocated to VRM Class III.

2.3.2.2.1.7 Mineral Resource Management

Alternative B proposes no mineral withdrawals or closures for the Black Canyon MU.

2.3.2.2.1.8 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

The Black Canyon Management Unit would be allocated as a limited use area, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes (Map 2-16).

Other Resource Allocations with Transportation and Public Access Prescriptions

The Table Mesa SRMA is discussed in section 2.3.2.2.1.5 and would include a diverse network of motorized single and two-track routes for general motorized recreation use, commercial use, and organized OHV events consistent with SRMA objectives.

SCRMAs with sites allocated to public use are discussed in the Cultural Resources section 2.3.2.2.1.4.

Management Actions

Limit all vehicles to designated routes. No cross-country motorized travel would be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

Consider building hardened walking trails at selected prehistoric and historic sites within the Black Mesa/Bumble Bee SCRMA and Black Canyon SCRMA.

2.3.2.2.2 Castle Hot Springs Management Unit

The Castle Hot Springs MU is bounded by State Route 74 (the Carefree Highway) to the south, Prescott National Forest to the north, the Black Canyon MU to the east, and the Hassayampa MU to the west (Map 2-26). The MU contains the following lands:

- 112,430 acres of BLM-administered lands.
- 53,730 acres of Arizona State land.
- 32,560 acres of private land.
- 22,870 acres of county park lands in both Maricopa and Yavapai Counties (Lake Pleasant Regional Park).
- 1,100 acres of Bureau of Reclamation lands not in Lake Pleasant Regional Park.

2.3.2.2.2.1 Special Area Designations

Current Special Area Designations within the Management Unit would be managed consistent with Management actions described in section 2.7.3.2 in the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area section of this chapter.

Special Area Designation

Tule Creek ACEC (640 acres)

Relevance

The Tule Creek area contains significant historic and cultural values, including the Fort Tule site, a prehistoric hilltop ruin occupied from A.D. 1100 to 1300, and a home site occupied by miners in the 1920s and 1930s. Tule Creek is a rare Sonoran Desert riparian system dominated

by emergent vegetation and occupied by endangered Gila topminnow.

Importance

The Fort Tule cultural site was probably used as a significant connection in a regional communication system based on signaling among hilltop sites. Its role in the communication system can offer important information on prehistoric social systems during the era it was used.

Tule Creek and its sensitive biological resources are extremely vulnerable to disturbance and degradation from vehicle use, mining, and livestock grazing. Continued protection of Tule Creek is important to the recovery of the endangered fish.

Desired Future Condition

The integrity of the riparian area, endangered species habitat quality, and cultural resources are maintained and protected from degradation.

Management Actions

The fenced area would be closed to livestock grazing and motor vehicles.

The ACEC would be withdrawn from mineral entry, closed to mineral and geothermal leasing, and closed to mineral material disposal.

An interpretive site for biological and cultural resources would be developed. Where needed, measures to protect sites, such as site stabilization or closure to public access, would be implemented.

Administrative Actions

Continue to patrol archaeological sites with help from Site Steward Volunteers.

2.3.2.2.2.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

No lands have been identified as available for disposal.

Communication Sites

There are no designated communication sites within this MU.

2.3.2.2.2.3 Biological Resources

There would be no other allocations for biological resources within this MU.

2.3.2.2.2.4 Cultural Resources

Land Use Allocations

Lake Pleasant/Agua Fria SCRMA

Desired Future Condition

A variety of prehistoric and historic sites would be selected for interpretation, education, and public visitation. For further information on public use of cultural resources, see Appendix E.

Management Actions

A combination of the some or all of the following and other actions could be implemented at selected sites:

- building visitor facilities such as parking areas, platforms, restrooms, picnic tables, benches, or trash receptacles,
- installing signs along routes and trails to direct visitors to interpreted sites,
- building hardened walking trails,
- installing interpretive signs and register boxes, and
- preparing brochures and related educational materials or programs.

Actions to stabilize, repair, and maintain sites in good condition could be undertaken.

Commercial and noncommercial group tours could be authorized as long as they were conducted with protective stipulations in

accordance with BLM's regulations and, where required, special recreation permits.

Administrative Actions

Specific sites for public use would be selected by considering the following factors:

- presence of aboveground features of interest to the public and amenable to interpretive development,
- accessibility to communities, travel routes, and recreation trails,
- condition of the site and the feasibility of stabilizing selected areas or features to withstand visitation,
- visitor safety,
- compatibility with other land uses and site values, such as traditional use by Native Americans,
- feasibility of regular inspections by BLM's staff and volunteers, and
- partnership opportunities for interpretive and educational projects.

The BLM's recreation program would participate in developing sites for public use.

BLM would cooperate with agencies, tribes, and local communities in supporting heritage tourism programs that benefit local economies. Historic properties for heritage tourism would be developed to contribute to their long-term preservation and productive use.

BLM would continue to work with the Site Steward Program to regularly monitor the condition of sites.

2.3.2.2.2.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

Hieroglyphic Mountains SRMA

Desired Future Condition

Manage mainly for intensive motorized single and two-track routes for general motorized recreation use, commercial use, organized OHV events, and competitive races.

Emphasize acceptable dust control and compatibility with neighboring communities and landowners.

Emphasize semi-primitive motorized and roaded-natural recreation settings. Uses and users would be concentrated in some areas.

Develop facilities with a variety of amenities consistent with the desired recreation setting. Visitors could expect contact with BLM's representatives daily or more often. Nonintrusive signing would be present in most of the SRMA.

Management Actions

Locate at least 20 miles of single and two-track motorized vehicle routes for competitive races to provide a unique array of challenges for ATV and motorcycle competitive racing.

Limit the number of motorized competitive races to 4 per year.

Locate and develop as many as two staging/camping areas for

- meeting the high recreation demand,
- parking and unloading of OHVs,
- overnight camping,
- event operations,
- informational signing,
- dust abatement, and
- human health and safety.

Limit to 30 acres the area of exposed barren soil.

Prohibit recreational target shooting within the SRMA.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.3.2.2.2.7.

Land Use Allocation

All remaining land within the Management Unit would be allocated to an Extensive Recreation Management Area.

2.3.2.2.2.6 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative B* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-15.

Within the Castle Hot Springs Management Unit:

- the Hieroglyphic Mountains SRMA would be allocated to VRM Class III objectives,
- the Hells Canyon Wilderness would be allocated to VRM Class I objectives, and
- the rest of the Management Unit would be allocated to VRM Class II.

2.3.2.2.2.7 Mineral Resource Management

Management Actions

Lands managed to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics would be closed to mineral material disposal.

Tule Creek ACEC would be withdrawn from mineral entry, closed to mineral and geothermal leasing, and closed to mineral material disposal.

2.3.2.2.2.8 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

The Castle Hot Springs Management Unit would be allocated as a limited use area, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes (Map 2-16).

Other Resource Allocations with Transportation and Public Access Prescriptions

The Hieroglyphic Mountains SRMA is discussed in the Recreation Resource section 2.3.2.2.2.5. The SRMA would offer at least 20 miles of single and two-track motorized vehicle routes available for competitive races to provide a unique array of challenges for ATV and motorcycle competitive racing. Allow general motorized recreation use, commercial use, organized OHV events, and competitive races on all designated motorized vehicle routes within the SRMA.

Tule Creek ACEC is discussed in section 2.3.2.2.2.1.

Allocations to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics are discussed in section 2.3.2.2.2.6.

SCRMA and sites allocated for public use are discussed in the Cultural Resources section 2.3.2.2.2.4.

Management Actions

All vehicles would be limited to designated routes. No-cross country motorized travel would be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

Close the fenced part of the Tule Creek ACEC to vehicle use.

Close reclaiming and eroded routes, hillside climbs, and washes to motorized travel within

the 9,080 acres managed to maintain wilderness characteristics.

Develop up to three non-motorized trails and trailheads within the 9,080 acres allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics (Map 2-31).

Build hardened walking trails to public use cultural sites within the Lake Pleasant/Agua Fria SCRMA.

Implementation Actions

Develop a comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management Plan to manage for single-use, multi-use hiking, equestrian, and OHV routes within the Castle Hot Springs Management Unit. This plan will implement the designated route system.

2.3.2.2.3 Hassayampa Management Unit

The Hassayampa MU has the Town of Wickenburg at its center. It is bounded on the east by Prescott National Forest and the Castle Hot Springs MU, and on the west by the Harquahala Mountain MU. The MU's southern edge is south of the Vulture Mountains, and its boundaries extend north past Yarnell (Map 2-27). The MU contains the following lands:

- 181,910 acres of BLM-administered lands,
- 130,580 acres of Arizona State land,
- 50,610 acres of private land, and
- 460 acres of county-administered lands in both Maricopa and Yavapai Counties.

2.3.2.2.3.1 Special Area Designations

Current Special Area Designations within the Management Unit would be managed consistent with management actions described in section 2.7.3.2 in the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area section of this chapter.

Back Country Byways

Constellation Mine Road

Desired Future Condition

The back country byway would provide a vehicle-based, back-country experience with amenities to heighten visitors' experiences, to educate, and to inform visitors about interesting natural and cultural features along the route. Visitors could expect the road to be occasionally difficult and settings to be remote. The road might not be accessible to all classes of vehicles. High clearance might be needed to traverse the whole route. Establish and maintain a semi-primitive motorized recreation setting ½ mile to either side of the road's centerline.

Management Actions

Evaluate and nominate the Constellation Mine Road for potential designation as a national back country byway. The public portions of this road would be maintained at a BLM Level 2 standard (BLM 9100 Manual) and be passable by high-clearance vehicles.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.3.2.2.3.6.

Secure easements and rights-of-way where needed to ensure long-term public access along Constellation Mine Road.

Interpret the route's historical features, including original road construction structures; mining properties; mining districts; and historic homesteads, settlements, and ranching history.

Install directional, safety, and interpretive signing to enhance public use, enjoyment, and stewardship of the route.

Administrative Actions

Establish a friends group to maintain, monitor, and help interpret and present the route as well as the area's natural and human history.

2.3.2.2.3.2 Lands and Realty

Lands would not be disposed of within the Hassayampa MU.

2.3.2.2.3.3 Biological Resources

No other allocations for biological resources would be made within the Hassayampa MU.

2.3.2.2.3.4 Cultural Resources

Land Use Allocations

Wickenburg/Vulture SCRMA and
Weaver/Octave SCRMA

Desired Future Condition

A variety of prehistoric and historic sites would be managed for interpretation, education, and public visitation. For further information on public use of cultural resources, see Appendix E.

Management Actions

A combination of some or all of following and other actions could be implemented at selected sites:

- building visitor facilities such as parking areas, platforms, restrooms, picnic tables, benches, or trash receptacles,
- installing signs along routes and trails to direct visitors to interpreted sites,
- building hardened walking trails,
- installing interpretive signs and register boxes, and/or
- preparing brochures and related educational materials or programs.

Actions could be taken to stabilize, repair, and maintain sites in good condition.

Commercial and noncommercial group tours could be authorized with protective stipulations in accordance with BLM's regulations and, where required, special recreation permits.

Administrative Actions

Sites for public use would be selected by considering the following factors:

- presence of aboveground features of interest to the public and amenable to interpretive development,
- accessibility to communities, travel routes, and recreation trails,
- site condition and the feasibility of stabilizing selected areas or features to withstand visitation ,
- visitor safety,
- compatibility with other land uses and site values, such as traditional use by Native Americans,
- feasibility of regular inspections by BLM's staff and volunteers, and
- partnership opportunities for interpretive and educational projects.

The BLM's recreation program would participate in developing sites for public use.

BLM would cooperate with agencies, tribes, and local communities in supporting heritage tourism programs that benefit local economies. Historic properties for heritage tourism would be developed to contribute to their long-term preservation and productive use.

BLM would continue to work with the Site Steward Program to regularly monitor the condition of sites.

2.3.2.2.3.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

Stanton SRMA

Desired Future Condition

Provide diverse recreation experiences while improving unacceptable environmental impacts from the following recreation:

- excessive and unregulated camping,
- activities of prospecting clubs, and
- motorized and other recreation uses.

Maintain a variety of recreation settings and opportunities with emphasis on semi-primitive motorized and roaded-natural settings.

Management Actions

Locate and develop trailheads, staging/camping areas, and other facilities.

Designate a diverse network of motorized vehicle routes open to a range of OHV experiences and challenges.

Limit the number of motorized competitive races to 2 per year.

Install informational, educational, and interpretive kiosks and trail signs where needed.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.3.2.2.3.6.

Administrative Actions

Determine specific areas where assessments would be initiated to do the following:

- define detailed desired conditions,
- define standards, and
- establish monitoring plans to manage camping and other recreation uses.

Land Use Allocation

Yarnell SRMA

Desired Future Condition

This site is one of the most valued in Arizona for launching successful long-distance, non-powered flights. Maintain long-term public access to the Yarnell hang gliding launching area (Map 2-32). In addition, maintain the landing areas and keep approaches to landing areas as free of flight hazards as possible.

Management Actions

Retain in public ownership Sections 22, 23, and 27 and all landing zones below Yarnell Hill.

Acquire legal public access to the Yarnell Hang Gliding launching area through easements, rights-of-way, or land acquisition.

Acquire the Arizona State Trust Land parcel southwest of Yarnell containing Fool's Gulch (Section 22) through purchase, legislation, or exchange.

Prohibit new overhead power lines, phone lines, or communication facilities within 1 mile of launching and identified landing zones.

Land Use Allocation

Wickenburg SRMA

Desired Future Condition

Establish a system of high-quality equestrian trails surrounding Wickenburg. The system will buffer the area from urban sprawl and preserve the open space value of the local landscape. This trail system would offer multiple opportunities for all recreation enthusiasts and enhance the lifestyle, cultural experience, and understanding of the local culture.

Offer properly managed and marketed quality recreation and tourism promoting conservation and a strong land ethic and protecting the natural resources and cultural heritage of the Wickenburg SRMA.

Manage the area of the proposed SRMA for a DFC that emphasizes values of open space, scenic and visual quality, and cultural and biological assets. Manage the lands within the SRMA for multiple uses, including livestock grazing and OHV uses.

Emphasize and maintain a variety of recreation settings and opportunities, including rural, roaded-natural, semi-primitive motorized, semi-primitive non-motorized, and associated experiences for residents, tourists, and winter visitors.

Management Actions

Locate and develop a non-motorized trailhead for the Red Top Trail System for the following purposes:

- meeting the high demand for non-motorized recreation,
- vehicle parking,
- unloading animals,
- overnight camping,
- event operations,
- informational signing,
- dust abatement, and
- human health and safety.

Limit to 20 acres the area of exposed barren soil.

Locate and develop an ATV and a motorcycle route network in the Red Top Trail area to give the local community motorized recreation opportunities to shift motorized use from the designated non-motorized trails. Use existing designated motorized vehicle routes and create new routes less than 50 inches wide, if necessary, to meet the objective.

Prohibit motorized competitive races in the SRMA.

Locate and develop at least one parking area of 3 acres or less for OHV parking and unloading. Limit to 5 acres the area of exposed barren soil.

Maintain and upgrade the non-motorized Vulture Peak Trail by rerouting segments of the trail and installing a restroom at the lower trailhead.

Acquire the 19,396 acres of Arizona State land within the SRMA. Prioritize and pursue acquisition using the criteria in the Lands and Realty discussion of the Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of Chapter 2. Lands will be acquired according to the following priorities:

- maintaining access and securing trail alignments,
- enhancing recreation opportunities,
- preserving scenery and open space, and
- conserving riparian values.

Develop special facilities for horse camping in the area south of Vulture Peak and south of Congress. These facilities could provide water for horses, electrical hookups for trailers, and more primitive horse camping facilities.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.3.2.2.3.6.

Administrative Actions

Collaborate with a diverse group of Wickenburg citizens to conserve the ecological, cultural, open space and recreation values of the Wickenburg area.

Write a comprehensive Travel Management Plan to develop management for single-use, multi-use hiking, equestrian, and OHV routes for the SRMA.

Land Use Allocation

San Domingo SRMA

Desired Future Condition

Provide a Sonoran Desert wash and upland environment suitable for an array of motorized and non-motorized uses. Manage for semi-primitive motorized and some roaded-natural settings.

Provide opportunities for the following while protecting the natural and cultural resources in the area:

- intensive camping,
- OHV activities,
- equestrian use,
- recreation activities of prospecting clubs,
- event operations, and
- motorized single and two-track routes for general motorized recreation use and competitive races.

Management Actions

Locate and develop trailheads, staging and camping areas, and other facilities as needed for recreation activities. Limit to 10 acres the total area of exposed barren soil.

Limit the number of motorized competitive races to 2 per year.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.3.2.2.3.6.

Administrative Actions

Determine specific areas where comprehensive site assessments would be initiated to do the following:

- determine existing physical and social impacts of recreation activities
- define desired conditions and standards
- establish monitoring plans to manage camping and other recreation uses

Land Use Allocation

Vulture Mine SRMA

Desired Future Condition

Provide a Sonoran Desert landscape suitable for intensive motorized single and two-track routes for general motorized recreation use, commercial use, organized OHV events, and competitive races.

Emphasize and maintain the current array of roaded natural and semi-primitive, motorized settings.

Preserve the mining and settlement history of the Vulture City Cemetery.

Management Actions

Locate at least 20 miles of motorized single and two-track routes for competitive races to provide a unique array of challenges for truck, buggy, ATV, and motorcycle competitive racing.

Limit the number of motorized competitive races to 4 per year.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.3.2.2.3.6.

Interpret and develop the Vulture City Cemetery for public use.

Administrative Actions

Determine specific areas where comprehensive site assessments would be initiated to do the following:

- determine existing physical and social impacts of recreation activities,
- define desired conditions and standards, and
- establish monitoring plans to manage camping and other recreation uses.

Land Use Allocation

All remaining land within the Management Unit would be allocated to an Extensive Recreation Management Area.

2.3.2.2.3.6 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative B* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-15.

Within the Hassayampa Management Unit:

- the Wickenburg SRMA would be allocated to VRM Class III in areas where rural and roaded-natural settings would be desired, and Class II where semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized settings would be desired,
- the San Domingo, Stanton, and the Vulture Mine SRMAs would be allocated to VRM Class III objectives,
- the Hassayampa River Canyon Wilderness would continue to be allocated as VRM Class I,
- utility corridors would be allocated to VRM Class III or IV, and
- in areas not listed above, VRM classes would be as portrayed on Map 2-15.

2.3.2.2.3.7 Mineral Resource Management

The Hassayampa MU would have no mineral withdrawals or closures.

2.3.2.2.3.8 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

The Hassayampa Management Unit would be allocated as a limited use area, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes (Map 2-16).

Other Resource Allocations with Transportation and Public Access Prescriptions

SRMAs are discussed in detail in the Recreation Resource section 2.3.2.2.3.5.

The Stanton SRMA would include a diverse network of motorized vehicle routes open to a range of OHV experiences and challenges.

The Wickenburg SRMA would include a system of high-quality equestrian trails surrounding Wickenburg. Management actions for this SRMA would include:

- Locate and develop a non-motorized trails and a trailhead for the Red Top Trail System within the SRMA.
- Locate and develop an ATV and a motorcycle route network in the Red Top Trail area to provide motorized recreation opportunities.

The San Domingo SRMA would provide a managed Sonoran Desert wash and upland environment suitable for an array of motorized and non-motorized uses.

The Vulture Mine SRMA would provide intensive motorized single and two-track routes for general motorized recreation opportunities, commercial use, organized OHV events and competitive races. Locate at least 20 miles of motorized single and two-track routes for competitive races to provide a unique array of challenges for truck, buggy, ATV, and motorcycle competitive racing.

Discussion of SCRMAs with sites allocated to Public Use can be found in the Cultural Resources section 2.3.2.2.3.4.

Discussion of the Constellation Mine Road Back Country Byway can be found in the Special Area Designations section 2.3.2.2.3.1.

Management Actions

All vehicles would be limited to designated routes. No cross-country motorized travel would be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

Maintain and upgrade the non-motorized Vulture Peak Trail by rerouting segments of the trail.

Consider building hardened walking trails to historic and prehistoric sites within the Wickenburg/Vulture SCRMA and Weaver/Octave SCRMA, for interpretation education and visitation.

The Constellation Mine Road Back Country Byway would be maintained to a BLM Level 2 standard (BLM 9100 Manual), passable by high-clearance vehicles. Easements and rights-of-way would be secured where needed to ensure long-term public access along Constellation Mine Road.

Implementation Actions

Develop a comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management Plan to manage for single-use, multi-use hiking, equestrian, and OHV routes within the Hassayampa Management Unit and associated SRMAs. This plan will implement the designated route system.

2.3.2.2.4 Harquahala Management Unit

The Harquahala MU under *Alternative B* would be bounded on the east by the Hassayampa MU and would extend west to the Phoenix Field Office boundary near the town of Wenden. The MU's southern boundary would follow the BLM property line north and west of Tonopah. The northern boundary would also follow the BLM property line south of State Route 60, which runs west of Wickenburg, through Aguila and Wenden (Map 2-28). The MU would contain the following lands:

- 401,680 acres of BLM-administered lands,
- 31,970 acres of Arizona State land, and
- 7,710 acres of private land.

2.3.2.2.4.1 Special Area Designations

Current Special Area Designations within the Management Unit would be managed consistent with management actions described in section 2.7.3.2 in the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area section of this chapter.

No new special area designations would be proposed within the Harquahala MU in *Alternative B.*

2.3.2.2.4.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

Alternative B proposes no lands for disposal within this MU.

Communication Sites

The Harquahala Peak communication site is the only designated communication site within this MU. New communication facilities would be limited to existing designated communication sites.

2.3.2.2.4.3 Biological Resources

Land Use Allocation

Harquahala Mountains WHA

Desired Future Condition

The current geographic distribution, plant diversity, and richness of the Chaparral and Sonoran Desert scrub vegetation communities in this desert mountain landscape would be maintained or enhanced. Unfragmented wildlife habitat would provide adequate forage, cover, and access to water for healthy wildlife populations.

Management Actions

New grazing improvements in Browns Canyon and the Inner Basin would be prohibited or designed to avoid increasing livestock use or concentrated livestock use.

BLM would acquire available State and private lands upon agreement with land owners.

Vehicle routes that conflict with maintenance of wildlife habitat could be closed, limited, or mitigated to ensure achieving of the DFC.

Maintenance of wildlife habitat would be given management priority in resolving resource conflicts.

2.3.2.2.4.4 Cultural Resources

Land Use Allocation

Harquahala Mountains SCRMA

Desired Future Condition

Provide a variety of prehistoric and historic sites for interpretation, education, and public visitation. For further information on public use of cultural resources, see Appendix E.

Management Actions

A combination of some or all of the following and other actions could be implemented at selected sites:

- building visitor facilities such as parking areas, platforms, restrooms, picnic tables, benches, or trash receptacles,
- installing signs along routes and trails to direct visitors to interpreted sites,
- building hardened walking trails,
- installing interpretive signs and register boxes, and/or
- preparing brochures and related educational materials or programs.

Actions to stabilize, repair, and maintain sites in good condition would be taken as needed. Commercial and noncommercial group tours could be authorized and conducted under protective stipulations that are in accordance with BLM regulations and, where required, special recreation permits.

Administrative Actions

Specific sites for public use would be selected by considering the following factors:

- presence of aboveground features of interest to the public and amenable to interpretive development.
- accessibility to communities, travel routes, and recreation trails,
- condition of the site and the feasibility of stabilizing selected areas or features to withstand visitation,
- visitor safety,
- compatibility with other land uses and site values, such as traditional use by Native Americans,
- feasibility of regular inspections by BLM staff and volunteers, and
- partnership opportunities for interpretive and educational projects.

The BLM recreation program would participate in developing sites for public use.

BLM would cooperate with agencies, tribes, and local communities in supporting heritage tourism programs that benefit local economies. Historic properties for heritage tourism would be developed to contribute to their long-term preservation and productive use.

BLM would continue to work with the Site Steward Program to regularly monitor the condition of sites.

2.3.2.2.4.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

The entire Management Unit would be allocated as an Extensive Recreation Management Area.

Management Actions

A Trans-Harquahala Trail would be designated and developed.

Implementation Actions

Select, plan, and develop at least one staging and camping area to meet motorized and non-motorized recreation demand. Have this area provide accommodation for the following:

- parking,
- unloading OHVs and horses,
- overnight camping, and
- large organized event operations.

Development may include the following:

- informational signs,
- kiosks,
- picnic tables,
- hitching posts,
- troughs for water hauled to the site,
- loading ramp, and
- soil stabilization for dust abatement.

Exposed, barren soil would not exceed 15 acres. Site-specific analysis, site design, and allowable site uses would address the potential effects on the objectives of the wildlife movement corridor.

2.3.2.2.4.6 Wilderness Characteristics

Land Use Allocation

In *Alternative B* for the Harquahala Management Unit, 87,070 acres as portrayed on Map 2-31 would be allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics.

Desired Future Condition

In addition to the DFC and management actions described in the Wilderness Characteristics discussion of the Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of this chapter, the following apply to this allocation.

The area would be managed mainly for an emphasis on non-motorized recreation experiences, open space, and natural landscapes to complement the region's diverse recreation opportunities. Recreation settings of semi-primitive non-motorized would be maintained throughout the area. Natural landscape values and remoteness would be maintained.

The current mix of motorized and non-motorized recreation settings, associated landscapes, and experiences would be maintained.

Management Actions

Recreation management would be for settings of semi-primitive non-motorized with semi-primitive motorized along boundaries and designated routes.

Revegetating routes (also called "reclaiming" routes), washes, and single-track vehicle routes would be closed. Unnecessary tertiary routes would also be closed to enhance scenic values, wildlife habitat, solitude, and remoteness values; and to expand primitive recreational settings and opportunities. Routes that access wildlife waters, livestock facilities, and other authorized facilities requiring periodic access would remain open.

Motorized competitive races would not be permitted.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.3.2.2.4.7.

Disposal of mineral materials or vegetation sales would be prohibited.

Recreation related actions suggested for the allocated areas can be found in section 2.3.2.2.4.5.

Administrative Actions

Site-specific standards would be established to maintain proper levels of recreation-related disturbance allowed within each desired recreation setting.

2.3.2.2.4.7 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative B* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 as portrayed on Map 2-15.

Within the Harquahala Management Unit:

- the existing Harquahala Mountains, Hummingbird Springs, and Big Horn Mountains Wilderness Areas would continue to be allocated to VRM Class I objectives,
- lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics would be allocated to VRM class II objectives,
- utility corridors would be allocated to VRM Class III or IV, and
- areas not listed above would be allocated to VRM classes as portrayed on Map 2-15.

2.3.2.2.4.8 Mineral Resource Management

Management Actions

Lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics would be closed to mineral material disposal.

2.3.2.2.4.9 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

The Harquahala Management Unit would be allocated as a limited use area, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes (Map 2-16).

Other Resource Allocations with Transportation and Public Access Prescriptions

Allocations to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics are discussed in section 2.3.2.2.4.6.

SCRMAs with sites allocated to public use are discussed in the Cultural Resources section 2.3.2.2.4.4.

Management Actions

Limit all vehicles to designated routes. No cross-country motorized travel would be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

Close all revegetating routes (also called "reclaiming" routes), washes, and single-track vehicle routes within 87,070 acres (Map 2-31) allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics. Unnecessary tertiary routes would also be closed. Routes to wildlife waters, livestock facilities, and other authorized facilities requiring periodic access would remain open.

Designate a Trans-Harquahala Trail.

Consider providing a variety of hardened walking trails to prehistoric and historic sites within the Harquahala Mountains SCRMA for interpretation, education, and public visitation.

2.3.2.2.5 Harcuvar Management Unit

The Harcuvar MU encompasses the easternmost end of the Harcuvar Mountains within the PFO's administrative area. Most of the Harcuvar Mountains are administered by BLM's Lake Havasu Field Office. The Harcuvar MU is bounded on the west and north by the boundary between the Phoenix and Lake Havasu Field Offices, and on the east and south by the boundary between BLM and non-BLM administered lands (Map 2-29). The MU contains the following lands:

- 53,200 acres of BLM-administered lands,
- 6,280 acres of Arizona State land, and
- 3,360 acres of private land.

2.3.2.2.5.1 Special Area Designations

No new special area designations would be proposed within this MU in *Alternative B.*

2.3.2.2.5.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

No lands have been identified for disposal.**Communication Sites**

No designated communication sites lie within this MU.

2.3.2.2.5.3 Biological Resources

No other biological resource allocations would be proposed within this MU.

2.3.2.2.5.4 Cultural Resources

Land Use Allocation

Harcuvar Mountains SCRMA

Desired Future Condition

A variety of prehistoric and historic sites would be developed for interpretation, education, and public visitation. For further information on public use of cultural resources, see Appendix E.

Management Actions

A combination of the some or all of following and other actions could be implemented at selected sites:

- building visitor facilities such as parking areas, platforms, restrooms, picnic tables, benches, or trash receptacles,
- installing signs along routes and trails to direct visitors to interpreted sites,
- building hardened walking trails,
- installing interpretive signs and register boxes, and/or
- preparing brochures and related educational materials or programs.

Actions to stabilize, repair, and maintain sites in good condition would be initiated as needed.

Commercial and noncommercial group tours would be authorized and conducted under protective stipulations that are in accordance with BLM’s regulations and, where required, special recreation permits.

Administrative Actions

Sites for public use would be selected by considering the following factors:

- presence of aboveground features that are of interest to the public and are amenable to interpretive development,
- accessibility to communities, travel routes, and recreation trails,

- condition of the site and the feasibility of stabilizing selected areas or features to withstand visitation,
- visitor safety,
- compatibility with other land uses and site values, such as traditional use by Native Americans,
- feasibility of regular inspections by BLM's staff and volunteers, and
- partnership opportunities for interpretive and educational projects.

The BLM's recreation program would participate in developing sites for public use.

BLM would cooperate with agencies, tribes, and local communities in supporting heritage tourism programs that benefit local economies. Historic properties for heritage tourism would be developed to contribute to their long-term preservation and productive use.

BLM would continue to work with the Site Steward Program to regularly monitor the condition of sites.

2.3.2.2.5.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocations

The entire Management Unit would be allocated as an Extensive Recreation Management Area.

2.3.2.2.5.6 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative B* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-15.

Within the Harcuvar Management Unit:

- the area along the Harcuvar Mountains would be allocated to VRM Class III
- the rest of the Management Unit would be allocated to VRM Class IV

2.3.2.2.5.7 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

The Harcuvar Management Unit would be allocated as a limited use area, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes (Map 2-16).

Other Resource Allocations with Transportation and Public Access Prescriptions

SCRMAs with sites allocated to public use are discussed in section 2.3.2.2.5.4 Cultural Resources.

Management Actions

All vehicles would be limited to designated routes. No cross-country motorized travel would be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

Consider developing hardened walking trails to prehistoric and historic sites within the Harcuvar Mountains SCRMA for interpretation, education, and public visitation.

2.3.2.2.6 Resource Allocations Not Within a Management Unit

2.3.2.2.6.1 Cultural Resources

Land Use Allocation

Galena Gulch SCRMA: (Map 2-30)

Desired Future Condition

A variety of prehistoric and historic sites would be selected for interpretation, education, and public visitation. For further information on public use of cultural resources, see Appendix E.

Management Actions

A combination of the some or all of following and other actions could be implemented at selected sites:

- building visitor facilities such as parking areas, platforms, restrooms, picnic tables, benches, or trash receptacles,
- installing signs along routes and trails to direct visitors to interpreted sites,
- building hardened walking trails,
- installing interpretive signs and register boxes, and/or
- creating brochures and related educational materials or programs.

Actions to stabilize, repair, and maintain sites in good condition would be implemented as needed.

Commercial and noncommercial group tours would be authorized and conducted under protective stipulations that are in accordance with BLM's regulations and, where required, special recreation permits.

Administrative Actions

Sites for public use would be selected by considering the following:

- presence of aboveground features that are of interest to the public and are amenable to interpretive development,
- accessibility to communities, travel routes, and recreation trails,
- site condition and feasibility of stabilizing selected areas or features to withstand visitation,
- visitor safety,
- compatibility with other land uses and site values, such as traditional use by Native Americans,
- feasibility of regular inspections by BLM's staff and volunteers, and
- partnership opportunities for interpretive and educational projects.

The BLM's recreation program would help develop sites for public use.

BLM would cooperate with agencies, tribes, and local communities in supporting heritage tourism programs that benefit local economies. Historic properties for heritage tourism would be developed to contribute to their long-term preservation and productive use.

BLM would continue to work with the Site Steward Program to regularly monitor the condition of sites.

2.3.2.2.6.2 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

Skull Valley SRMA: (Map 2-30)

Desired Future Condition

The landscape character would be maintained, and motorized access to routes in Prescott National Forest would also be maintained.

Management Actions

Motorized and mechanized uses would be on designated motorized routes.

Management of the Skull Valley SRMA would be transferred to the adjacent Prescott National Forest upon agreement by BLM and the U.S. Forest Service.

Land Use Allocation

North Black Canyon Trail SRMA: (Map 2-30)

Desired Future Condition

The Black Canyon Trail from Highway 69 north and east would be completed to connect with trails in Prescott National Forest. A non-motorized experience along or near the historic sheep driveway would be provided. The trail and any ancillary facilities would generally be

along the corridor established by secretarial order in 1969.

Management Actions

Rights-of-way would be acquired for the trail and facilities to preserve their access and long-term character.

Easements or rights-of-way would be acquired on lands where the trail or facilities must cross or be built on non-Federal lands.

Any future land tenure action will recognize the trail and facilities and will retain a ¼ mile corridor (1/8 mile on each side) along the trail and any ancillary facility, as well as public access to the trails and facilities by easement, right-of-way, deed restriction, or other suitable means.

Administrative Actions

Establish a citizen focus group to help with trail and facility sites, designs, and management. With citizen's input, write a long-term SRMA management plan. Exact locations of the trail or any ancillary facilities would be determined in conjunction with the Yavapai County Trails Committee and the Trail and Facilities Citizen Group.

Land Use Allocation

All other BLM lands outside of Management Units in this Alternative would be allocated to an Extensive Recreation Management Area.

2.3.2.2.6.3 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative B* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-15.

2.3.2.2.6.4 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

All areas not within management units would be allocated as limited use areas, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes (Map 2-16).

Other Resource Allocations with Transportation and Public Access Prescriptions

SRMAs are discussed in Recreation and Public Access section 2.3.2.2.6.2.

SCRMAs with sites allocated to public use are discussed in the Cultural Resources section 2.3.2.2.6.1.

Management Actions

All vehicles would be limited to designated routes. No cross-country motorized travel would be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

In the Skull Valley SRMA: (Map 2-30) motorized vehicle travel would be restricted to lower speeds near private lands with travel only on designated motorized routes.

In the North Black Canyon Trail SRMA: (Map 2-30) the Black Canyon Trail would connect to trails in Prescott National Forest.

Consider developing hardened walking trails within the Galena Gulch SCRMA to prehistoric and historic sites for interpretation, education, and public visitation.

2.4 Alternative C

The following discussion and the DFCs, land use allocations, and management actions described in the Management Common to All Action Alternatives section of Chapter 2, comprise the total proposed *Alternative C.*

2.4.1 Agua Fria National Monument

The overall theme of *Alternative C* is to allow visitors to experience the natural landscape and cultural resource setting of Agua Fria National Monument. Management decisions will focus on protecting the monument's resources while accommodating visitor experiences. Such management would result in limited access and establishing a larger Back Country RMZ than under *Alternative B* to preserve the natural landscape and enhance primitive recreation opportunities. *Alternative C* would also emphasize managing cultural resources for more limited public use. Upland grazing areas would remain similar to those under current management, but riparian areas would be closed to grazing. Managing natural and cultural resources would generally be more restrictive than under *Alternative B.*

2.4.1.1 Special Area Designations

Alternative C for Agua Fria National Monument would designate four ACECs, shown on Map 2-33, for managing the Gila chub. *Alternative C* would also remove the designation of the existing Perry Mesa and Larry Canyon ACECs because the national monument's proclamation (Appendix A) provides for more protection and management across a more extensive landscape than the ACEC designation.

Alternative C also proposes studying eligibility of more waterways for WSR designations and evaluating a back country byway.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Silver Creek ACEC (350 acres)

Relevance

Silver Creek ACEC would protect a rare riparian deciduous forest.

Importance

The habitat supports a federally proposed native fish (Gila chub) and provides special features of value for studies of desert riparian systems. The area is proposed as a critical habitat for the Gila chub.

Desired Future Condition

The integrity of the riparian area and endangered species habitat quality are maintained and protected from degradation.

Management Actions

Motorized vehicle routes would be closed or mitigated to avoid degrading riparian values or habitat for Gila chub.

Livestock grazing would be prohibited.

Indian Creek ACEC (330 acres)

Relevance

Indian Creek ACEC would protect a rare riparian deciduous forest.

Importance

Habitat supports a federally proposed native fish (Gila chub) and provides special features of value for studies of desert riparian systems. The area is proposed as a critical habitat for the Gila chub.

Desired Future Condition

The integrity of the riparian area and endangered species habitat quality are maintained and protected from degradation.

Management Actions

Lands along Indian Creek would be acquired from willing non-Federal land holders. Motorized vehicle routes would be closed or

mitigated to avoid degrading riparian values or habitat for Gila chub.

Livestock grazing would be prohibited.

Larry Canyon ACEC (50 acres)

Relevance

Rare riparian deciduous forest

Importance

Habitat supports a federally proposed native fish (Gila chub) and provides special features of value for studies of desert riparian systems. The area is proposed as a critical habitat for the Gila chub.

Desired Future Condition

The integrity of the riparian area and endangered species habitat quality are maintained and protected from degradation.

Management Actions

Motorized vehicle routes would be closed or mitigated to avoid degrading riparian values or Gila chub habitat.

Livestock grazing would be prohibited.

Lousy Canyon ACEC (80 acres)

Relevance

Rare riparian deciduous forest

Importance

Habitat supports the federally listed Gila topminnow and desert pupfish and federally proposed Gila chub and provides special features of value for studies of desert riparian systems. The area is proposed as a critical habitat for the Gila chub.

Desired Future Condition

The integrity of the riparian area and endangered species habitat quality are maintained and protected from degradation.

Management Actions

Motorized vehicle routes would be closed or mitigated to avoid degrading riparian values or habitat for Gila chub.

Livestock grazing would be prohibited.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Tributaries to the Agua Fria River would be studied to determine eligibility for wild and scenic river designation in accordance with the WSR Act (Map 2-33).

Back Country Byways

Evaluate and nominate a back country byway on Bloody Basin Road if standards and requirements are met (Map 2-33).

Desired Future Condition

The back country byway would provide a vehicle-based recreation experience with amenities to heighten visitors' experiences and to educate, and inform visitors about interesting natural and cultural features along the route. Visitors could expect the road to occasionally be difficult and settings to be remote. The road might not be accessible to all classes of vehicle. High-clearance vehicles might be needed to travel the whole route. A recreation setting of semi-primitive motorized would be maintained for ½ mile to either side of the road's centerline.

Management Actions

Road maintenance standards would conform to a BLM Level 2 standard, (BLM 9100 Manual) passable by high-clearance vehicles.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.4.1.6.

Easements and rights-of-way would be secured where needed to ensure long-term public access.

Monument features along the route would be interpreted, including prehistoric cultural features, historic homesteads, settlements, and ranching history.

Directional, safety, and interpretive signs would be installed to enhance public use, enjoyment, and stewardship of the area.

Administrative Actions

A cooperative and a collaborative site plan would be developed with landowners and other agencies affected by the byway designation.

2.4.1.2 Lands and Realty

2.4.1.2.1 Utility and Transportation Corridors

The Black Canyon utility corridor would be eliminated from the monument. All existing rights-of-way and prior existing rights would continue to be honored.

2.4.1.3 Biological Resources

Alternative C for the Agua Fria National Monument would designate two WHAs for enhancing pronghorn habitat and four ACECs for managing biological resources, especially Gila chub. The current Larry Canyon ACEC would be dropped because the monument proclamation (Appendix A) provides more protection and management across a more extensive landscape.

The ACECs are described in the Special Area Designations section of *Alternative B.* The management actions for the WHAs, which are shown in Map 2-34, are outlined below.

Land Use Allocation

Pronghorn Fawning Habitat WHA.

Pronghorn Movement Corridor WHA.

Desired Future Condition

Unfragmented wildlife habitat that provides adequate forage, cover, and access to water for healthy wildlife populations, especially pronghorn.

Management Actions

Vehicle routes that cross known pronghorn movement corridors and have a type and a volume of use that modifies pronghorn behavior in ways that fragment their habitat, will be closed or mitigated to minimize the fragmentation.

Prescribed fire would continue to be used to improve pronghorn habitat.

New recreation sites would not be developed in pronghorn movement corridors.

Maintenance of wildlife habitat would be given management priority in resolving resource conflicts.

2.4.1.4 Cultural Resources

Alternative C would develop a moderate number of interpretive improvements to enhance visitor experiences by increasing access to a few archaeological sites and developing interpretive information about the national monument's cultural resources.

Areas of the monument would be allocated to SCRMAs focused on varying levels of public use as shown in Table 2-4 SCRMAs and on Map 2-35.
For descriptions of associated actions, see the Cultural Resources section of Management Common to Agua Fria National Monument. High use represents the most

intensive degree of interpretive development, and moderate use involves less intensive development of access and interpretive facilities. All areas of the monument not shown as high or moderate use SCRMAs on Map 2-35 would be considered areas of low public use that are not available for on-the-ground interpretive development or commercial tours.

Table 2-4. Alternative C: Cultural Resource Public Use Areas

Level of Public Use	Locations/Sites
High	Pueblo la Plata and Fort Silver (Pueblo la Plata Complex)
Moderate	Baby Canyon Pueblo and Pueblo Pato; Badger Springs rock art, Richinbar Ruin, the Rollie site, the Arrastra site, and Badger Pueblo The historic Teskey homestead near the Agua Fria River.
Low	Public use of archaeological sites would be limited in all other areas not described above.

2.4.1.5 Recreation Resources

In *Alternative C,* the entire monument would be allocated to a Special Recreation Management Area with three Recreation Management Zones within it. These zones would include a Back Country RMZ of 28,420 acres to manage and maintain the natural landscape character in the Agua Fria River Canyon and tributaries, and Perry Mesa south of Bloody Basin Road (Map 2-35). A Passage RMZ of 70 acres would be allocated 100 feet on each side of the centerline of designated routes that pass through or enter into the Back Country RMZ, to manage (1) vehicle-based visitation and (2) commercial-based operations such as grazing permits. The rest of the monument would be allocated as a Front Country RMZ of 42,410 acres, where more focus could be placed on recreation and interpretive opportunities. General descriptions of the Front Country, Back Country, and Passage RMZs, including desired future conditions common to all Alternatives, are in the Management Common to Agua Fria National Monument section of this document under the discussion in section 2.7.2.7.

Land Use Allocation

Front Country Recreation Management Zone of 42,410 acres

Desired Future Condition

See Desired Future Condition description in the Recreational Resources section 2.7.2.7 of the Management Common to Agua Fria National Monument section of this chapter.

Management Actions

VRM Allocations to achieve the Desired Future Conditions of this Recreation Management Zone are described in section 2.4.1.6.

SRPs and Concessions:

- Up to six SRPs would be authorized within the monument each year. These SRPs might include any combination of the following:
    - Commercial (e.g. jeep tours, outfitters),
    - Commercial special events, and
    - Noncommercial special events.
- Issue permits and concessions to enhance visitor use, services, and visitor safety and enjoyment, providing these conform to monument values and objectives. BLM will consider concessions and permits on a case-by-case basis, basing its determinations on consistency with management objectives and a clearly demonstrated need.

Dispersed Camping:

- Camping permits could be required if resource damage occurs that inhibits achieving resource DFCs or threatens resources protected by proclamation, or if health and safety issues emerge. If damage continues, more

- limitations might be required, including temporary or permanent area closures, limiting camping to designated sites, or seasonal limitations or closures.
- Allow camping at designated sites only.

Developed Campgrounds:

- Develop one campground at either Badger Springs or near the Bloody Basin Road outside the WHAs.
- Limit campsites to 20, with a picnic table, fire ring, and ramada provided at each site.
- Develop potable water if available.
- Provide restrooms to address health and sanitation issues.

Campfires:

- Prohibit campfires within ¼ mile of High and Moderate public-use archaeological sites.
- Prohibit campfires at archaeological sites, including petroglyph (rock art) sites.
- Prohibit campfires within ¼ mile of a developed campground.
- Within campgrounds, allow campfires only in manufactured campfire rings.
- Allow campfires at designated sites.
- Limit firewood collection to campfire use only. Firewood may consist of dead, down, and detached material.
- To prevent resource damage, monitor vegetation for use and disturbance and temporarily or permanently suspend this use to prevent resource damage.

Recreational Target Shooting:

- Recreational target shooting would be prohibited within the Front Country RMZ.

Trail Construction for Non-motorized Recreation Use

Discussion of recreation trail development can be found in section 2.4.1.8.

Land Use Allocation

Back Country Recreation Management Zone of 28,420 acres

Desired Future Condition

Maintain or enhance the natural landscape character of the Agua Fria River Canyon and tributaries (Map 2-35). See Desired Future Condition description in section 2.7.2.7 of the Management Common to Agua Fria National Monument section of this chapter.

Management Actions

VRM Allocations to achieve the Desired Future Conditions of this Recreation Management Zone are described in section 2.4.1.6.

Maintain river crossings at Kelton Ranch, EZ Ranch, Horseshoe Ranch, and Cross Y Ranch.

SRPs and Concessions:

- Up to six SRPs would be authorized within the monument each year. These SRPs might include any combination of the following:
    - Commercial (e.g. jeep tours, outfitters),
    - Commercial special events, and
    - Noncommercial special events.
- Issue permits and concessions to enhance visitor use, services, safety, and enjoyment, providing they conform to monument values and objectives. Evaluate concessions and permits on a case-by-case basis. Determinations would be made on consistency with management objectives and clearly demonstrated needs.

Dispersed Camping:

- Allow camping but limit it to certain designated areas if resource damage occurs. Camping permits could be required if resource damage occurs that inhibits achieving resource DFCs or threatens resources protected by proclamation, or if health and safety issues emerge. If damage continues, more limitations might be required, including temporary or permanent area closures, limiting camping to designated sites, or seasonal limitations or closures.
- Prohibit camping at archaeological sites, including at petroglyph (rock art) sites.
- Allow camping if at least ¼ mile from High or Moderate use archaeological sites.
- Camping would be prohibited within ¼ mile from water sources "...containing water in such a place that wildlife or domestic stock will be denied access to the only reasonably available water (Arizona Revised Statute 17-308, Unlawful Camping).

Campfires:

- Allow campfires at dispersed sites.
- Prohibit campfires within ¼ mile of High and Moderate public-use archaeological sites.
- Prohibit campfires within 200 feet of archaeological sites, including petroglyph (rock art) sites.
- Prohibit campfires within ¼ mile of a developed campground.
- Allow campfires only in existing disturbed areas.
- Allow campfires in existing campfire rings only.
- Limit firewood collection to campfire use only. Firewood may consist of dead, down, and detached material. To prevent resource damage, monitor vegetation for use and disturbance. Temporarily or permanently suspend firewood collection to prevent resource damage.

Recreational Target Shooting:

- Targets need to be of a type and material that will not produce litter and must be cleaned up after use.
- Spent shell casings have to be cleaned up after use.
- Unacceptable impacts to monument resources or public safety would result in further management actions, ranging from further restrictions to closure.
- Prohibit shooting within ½ mile of areas where people congregate, including trailheads, campgrounds, interpretive sites, kiosks, and other high-use sites.

Trail Construction for Non-motorized Recreation Use

Discussion of recreation trail development can be found in section 2.4.1.8.

Land Use Allocation

The Passage Recreation Management Zone would consist of 70 acres.

Desired Future Condition

See Desired Future Condition description in section 2.7.2.7 of the Management Common to Agua Fria National Monument section of this chapter.

Management Actions

VRM Allocations to achieve the Desired Future Conditions of this Recreation Management Zone are described in section 2.4.1.6.

SRPs and Concessions:

- Up to six SRPs would be authorized within the monument each year. These SRPs might include any combination of the following:
    - Commercial (e.g. jeep tours, outfitters),
    - Commercial special events, and
    - Noncommercial special events.

- Issue permits and concessions to enhance visitor use, services, and visitor safety and enjoyment, providing these conform to monument values and objectives. Consider concessions and permits on a case-by-case basis, with determinations based on consistency with management objectives and a clearly demonstrated need.

Dispersed Camping:

- Allow camping at designated sites only.
- Camping permits could be required if resource damage occurs that inhibits achieving resource DFCs or threatens resources protected by proclamation, or if health and safety issues emerge. If damage continues, more limitations might be required, including temporary or permanent area closures, limiting camping to designated sites, or seasonal limitations or closures.
- Prohibit camping on archaeological sites, including petroglyph (rock art) sites.
- Allow camping if at least ¼ mile from High or Moderate public use archaeological sites.
- Camping would be prohibited within ¼ mile from water sources "...containing water in such a place that wildlife or domestic stock will be denied access to the only reasonably available water (Arizona Revised Statute 17-308, Unlawful Camping).

Campfires:

- Prohibit campfires within ¼ mile of High and Moderate public-use archaeological sites.
- Prohibit campfires at archaeological sites, including petroglyph (rock art) sites.
- Prohibit campfires within ¼ mile of a developed campground.
- Limit firewood collecting to campfire use only. Firewood may consist of dead, down, and detached material. To prevent resource damage, monitor vegetation for use and disturbance. Temporarily or permanently suspend firewood collecting to prevent resource damage.

Recreational Target Shooting:

- Targets need to be of a type and material that will not produce litter and must be cleaned up after use.
- Spent shell casings have to be cleaned up after use.
- Unacceptable impacts to monument resources and public safety would result in further management actions, ranging from further restrictions to closure.

Trail Construction for Non-motorized Recreation Use

Discussion of recreation trail development can be found in section 2.4.1.8.

Administrative Actions

Collect baseline data concerning recreational target shooting, to determine social and resource impact, to establish monitoring needs and frequencies, and to detect change.

2.4.1.6 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative C* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-36. Within the Agua Fria National Monument, the Front Country and Passage RMZs would be allocated to VRM Class III. The Back Country RMZ and 1/2 mile on each side of the proposed Bloody Basin Road Back Country Byway would be allocated to Class II objectives.

2.4.1.7 Rangeland Management

Land Use Allocation

Eleven grazing authorizations would continue to be administered within Agua Fria National Monument. Grazing would be prohibited in the monument's riparian areas (Map 2-37). On grazing allotments where riparian areas are unfenced, the entire pasture would be closed to grazing.

Desired Future Condition (DFC)

Watersheds are in properly functioning condition, including their upland, riparian, and aquatic components. Soil and plant conditions support infiltration, storage, and release of water that are in balance with climate and landform.

Ecological processes are maintained to support healthy biotic populations and communities.

Within 3 years, riparian areas that did not meet Standard 2 of the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health (Land Health Standards) because of livestock grazing would meet that standard.

Management Actions

For allotments where the public lands are unfenced from other lands, fencing and surveys would be required to establish the boundaries of the riparian areas and protect them from livestock grazing.

The loss of allotment acres because of the riparian restriction would result in current authorized livestock numbers being correspondingly reduced.

Fence construction and maintenance will follow guidance provided in BLM's handbook on Fencing No. 1741-1.

2.4.1.8 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

The entire monument is allocated as limited to designated routes.

Management Actions

Cross-country motorized travel is prohibited except in the case of an emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

Within Front Country

Trail Construction for Non-motorized Recreation Use:

- Develop trails as needed to enhance resources and recreation experiences and to protect monument values. Any construction would be compatible with Desired Future Conditions for the construction area.
- Design trails to blend into the environment.
- Build loop, connector, and linear trails, depending on recreation, access, and resource objectives.
- Where appropriate, build trails to maintain connectivity to recreation opportunities such as hunting, equestrian activities, hiking, and viewing cultural sites.
- Where appropriate, build trails to link with other connector trails beyond the monument's border.
- Explore opportunities to link networks of non-motorized trails within the monument to trails outside the monument on other BLM lands, or in other adjacent jurisdictions, including Tonto and Prescott National Forests, Yavapai County, and local communities, where linkages are consistent with monument values and do not impair protection of monument resources.
- Place priority for developing non-motorized trails on archaeological sites developed for interpretive use and visitation.

- Evaluate other non-motorized trails to enhance visitor access and enjoyment of monument resources. Such trails may include (1) self-guided nature and cultural resource trails, (2) trails to interpreted sites not accessible by vehicle, or (3) longer trails linking multiple sites for day or multiple-day trips.

Route Construction for Motorized Use:

- All construction would be compatible with Desired Future Conditions for the construction area.
- Evaluate new motorized vehicle routes on a case-by-case basis, with determinations based on protecting and enhancing monument values.
- Enhance existing routes north of Bloody Basin Road to provide greater motorized recreation opportunities.

Off-Highway Vehicles:

- All vehicles would be limited to designated routes consistent with the discussion in section 2.7.2.10.
- Manage OHV access to provide for a variety of use experiences, including allowing public access to the monument's cultural and biological resources.

Within Back Country

Trail Construction for Non-motorized Recreation Use:

- Develop trails as needed to enhance resources and recreational experiences and protect monument values. All construction would be compatible with Desired Future Conditions for the construction area.
- Design trails to blend into the environment.
- Build loop, connector, and linear trails, depending on recreation, access, and resource objectives.
- Where appropriate, build trails to maintain connectivity to recreational opportunities, such as hunting, hiking, equestrian activities, and viewing cultural sites.
- Where appropriate, build trails to link with other connector trails beyond the monument's border.
- Explore opportunities to link networks of non-motorized trails within the monument to trails outside the monument on other BLM lands, or on other adjacent jurisdictions, including Tonto and Prescott National Forests, Yavapai County, and local communities, where trail linkages conform to monument values and do not impair protection of monument resources.

Route Construction for Motorized Use:

- Build no new routes within the Back Country RMZ.

Off-Highway Vehicles:

- Manage the Back Country RMZ as a non-motorized area.

Within Passage

Trail Construction for Non-motorized Recreational Use

- Develop trails as needed to enhance resources and recreational experiences, and protect monument values. All construction would be compatible with Desired Future Conditions for the construction area.
- Design trails to blend into the environment.
- Build loop, connector, and linear trails, depending on the established recreation, access, and resource objectives.
- Build trails to maintain connectivity to recreation opportunities, such as hunting, riding, and viewing cultural sites.

- Build trails to link with other connector trails beyond the monument's border.
- Explore opportunities to link networks of non-motorized trails within the monument to trails outside the monument on other BLM lands, or within other adjacent jurisdictions, including Tonto and Prescott National Forests, Yavapai County, and local communities, where trail linkages conform to monument values and do not impair protection of monument resources.
- Place the priority for developing non-motorized trails on archaeological sites developed for interpretive use and visitation.
- Evaluate other non-motorized trails to enhance visitor access and enjoyment of monument resources. These trails may include (1) self-guided nature and cultural resource trails, (2) trails to interpreted sites not accessible by vehicle, or (3) longer trails linking multiple sites for day or multiple-day trips.
- Build non-motorized trails to provide access to core use areas. Such trails could consist only of routes marked by low-impact fiberglass posts with minimal ground disturbance.

Route Construction for Motorized Use:

- All construction would be compatible with desired recreation settings.
- Motorized route construction would be considered only as mitigation for resource conflicts.

Off-Highway Vehicles:

- All vehicles would be limited to designated routes consistent with the discussion in section 2.7.2.10.
- Manage OHV access to provide for a variety of use experiences, especially to provide access for public visitation of the monument's cultural and biological resources.

Implementation Actions

Public Access

An evaluation tree review process was used to establish a designated public access and route system to support resource objectives consistent with *Alternative C* and to protect monument resources. The results of the evaluation are shown on Map 2-38. A summary of the route status and quantity that would be designated is shown below.

Routes Open 129 miles

Routes Closed 50 miles

New Routes 6 miles

2.4.2 Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area

Although *Alternative C* still places some emphasis on resource use and development, it places greater emphasis on more undeveloped opportunities. Some areas would undergo more protective management than that proposed under *Alternative B*. The result is limiting access, closing some areas to vehicles, and establishing an increased number and acreage of areas of critical environmental concerns (ACECs). In addition, there would be fewer cultural resources devoted to public use and a greater number of acres allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics. Grazing of uplands would remain similar to current management, but riparian areas would be closed to grazing. Mining would be open in most areas, with restrictions in areas that are allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics and ACECs. Visual resource management (VRM) would be consistent with increased emphasis on resource protection. The management units (MUs) for *Alternative C* are shown on Map 2-39.

2.4.2.1 Management Applicable to the Entire Bradshaw-Harquahala under this Alternative

2.4.2.1.1 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

Under *Alternative C* two methods have been developed for determining which lands are potentially suitable for disposal through sale or exchange. Management of all other resources would remain as discussed for the Alternative. The two methods are described below. The lands suitable for disposal, determined by both sets of criteria, are shown in Map 2-40.

The first method selects lands with the following traits:

- parcels of 160 acres or less and
- five miles or more from blocks (5,000 or more contiguous acres) of BLM-managed lands.

This method has found approximately 600 acres potentially suitable for disposal. Of these 600 acres, 344 acres are scattered lands outside the planning area boundaries but included in this planning effort. None of the areas determined by this method were in a management unit selected for *Alternative C.*

The second method selects lands with the following traits:

- either physically or functionally fragmented,
- in blocks of 5,000 acres or less, and
- generally not adjoining in-holdings of other Federal agencies.

This method found 49,100 acres to be potentially suitable for disposal. Of these 49,100 acres, 5,200 acres are within the scattered lands outside the planning area boundaries but included in this planning effort.

Other criteria limiting which lands might be selected as suitable for disposal are described in the Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of this chapter in the discussion under Lands and Realty section 2.7.1.2.

Lands considered for potential acquisition include State and private lands (willing seller) within the planning area. Acquired parcels would be managed in accordance with the resource management prescriptions outlined in this land use plan. These lands would meet the criteria described under the Lands and Realty discussion of the Management Common to Both Planning Areas, as well as program objectives for *Alternative C.*

Utility and Transportation Corridors

New utility corridors within the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area (Map 2-41) would be allocated for future expected demands. These allocations would respond to the demand to intensify the power grid and would conform to the utility regulations of the Arizona Corporation Commission.

2.4.2.1.2 Rangeland Management

Land Use Allocation

BLM would continue to administer 93 grazing authorizations within the planning area.

Desired Future Condition

Watersheds are in proper functioning condition, including their upland, riparian, and aquatic components. Soil and plant conditions support infiltration, storage, and release of water that are in balance with climate and landform.

Ecological processes are maintained to support healthy biotic populations and communities.

In riparian areas where livestock grazing precluded achieving Standard 2 of the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health (Land Health

Standards), the standard could be achieved within 3 years.

Management Actions

Grazing in riparian areas would be prohibited (Map 2-42). On grazing allotments where the riparian areas are unfenced and BLM owns or controls a sufficient amount of acreage within a pasture, the entire pasture would be closed to grazing.

For allotments where the public lands are unfenced from other lands, surveys, and fencing would be required to establish the boundaries of the riparian areas and protect them from livestock grazing where reasonable and prudent.

The loss of acres in an allotment because of the riparian restriction would result in a corresponding reduction in current authorized livestock numbers.

2.4.2.1.3 Mineral Resource Management

The following maps show minerals management proposed under *Alternative C* in the immediate environs of the planning areas:

- *Alternative C* Closed to Locatable Minerals (Map 2-43).
- *Alternative C* Closed to Leasable Minerals (Map 2-44).
- *Alternative C* Closed to Saleable Minerals (Map 2-45).

The following descriptions of mineral types include information on mining closures:

Leasable Minerals

All lands would be open to leasing except for the Tule Creek ACEC, Sheep Mountain RNA ACEC, Black Mesa ACEC, and Baldy Mountain ONA ACEC (Map 2-46), all of which would be closed to mineral and geothermal leasing.

Reconveyed lands with potential for leasable minerals would be opened for mineral and geothermal leasing.

Saleable Minerals (Mineral Materials)

All BLM lands in the planning area would be open for mineral material disposal, except for the following, which would be closed:

- Baldy Mountain ONA ACEC (Map 2-46).
- Black Butte ACEC (Map 2-46).
- Sheep Mountain RNA ACEC (Map 2-46).
- Tule Creek ACEC (Map 2-46).
- Vulture Mountains ACEC (Map 2-46).
- Black Mesa ACEC (Map 2-46).
- Lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics (Map 2-54).

Reconveyed lands with potential for saleable minerals would be opened for disposal of mineral materials.

Locatable Minerals

All lands would be open to mineral entry except for Baldy Mountain ONA ACEC, Sheep Mountain RNA ACEC, Black Mesa ACEC, and Tule Creek ACEC, all of which would be withdrawn from mineral entry (Map 2-46).

Small tracts and reconveyed lands with high potential for locatable minerals, except for lands in riparian corridors, would be opened to mineral entry.

No riparian areas now withdrawn from mineral entry would be opened to mineral entry under the mining laws.

2.4.2.1.4 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

All public lands within the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area would be allocated

as limited use areas, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes. The Hassayampa River Canyon, Hells Canyon, Harquahala Mountains, Big Horn Mountains and Hummingbird Spring Wildernesses would remain closed to motorized and mechanized uses (Map 2-16).

Desired Future Conditions

Define, designate, implement, and monitor a comprehensive travel management network affording a range of high-quality and diverse motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities. The network would consist of a system of areas, roads, routes and/or trails. The travel management network and associated recreation opportunities would be consistent with other resource management objectives and recreation settings for the area.

Management Actions

No cross-country motorized travel would be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

Administrative Actions

An evaluation process, similar to one described in Appendix D, will be used to establish a designated public access and route system within the Black Canyon Management Unit to support resource objectives consistent with *Alternative B.*

Develop comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management Plans for the management units and other public lands within the planning area. These plans would implement route designations on the public lands.

2.4.2.2 Management Units

Under *Alternative C*, six MUs are geographic units for presenting land use allocations. These MUs are summarized with their land use allocations and management actions in the following sections. As noted, areas within the MUs that do not receive specific land use allocations would be administered according to the DFC and management actions presented under Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area in the Management Units section of Chapter 2.

The document sections discussing the six MUs and the maps on which they appear are as follows:

- Black Canyon Management Unit, section 2.4.2.2.1, Map 2-47.
- Castle Hot Springs Management Unit, section 2.4.2.2.2, Map 2-48.
- Hassayampa Management Unit, section 2.4.2.2.3, Map 2-49.
- Harquahala Management Unit, section 2.4.2.2.4, Map 2-50.
- Harcuvar Management Unit, section 2.4.2.2.5, Map 2-51.
- Upper Agua Fria River Basin Management, section 2.4.2.2.6, Map 2-52.

Allocations outside MUs are discussed in section 2.4.2.2.7 and shown on Map 2-53. As noted, areas within the MUs that do not receive specific land use allocations would be administered according to the DFC and management actions presented under Management Units and in the Management Common to All Action Alternatives section of this chapter.

2.4.2.2.1 Black Canyon Management Unit

The Black Canyon MU stretches from the southern end of Table Mesa in the south to Cordes Junction in the north. It is bounded by Agua Fria National Monument and Tonto National Forest on the east and the Prescott National Forest on the west (Map 2-47).
The MU contains the following lands:

- 68,730 acres of BLM-administered lands,

- 12,600 acres of Arizona State land,
- 6,780 acres of private land, and
- 1,100 acres of county park lands in both Maricopa and Yavapai Counties.

2.4.2.2.1.1 Special Area Designations

Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Black Mesa ACEC (5,540 acres)

Relevance

Diverse types of significant archaeological sites occupied over the past 2,000 years, including sites that may have been ancestral to the Perry Mesa Tradition that was dominant in Agua Fria National Monument.

Importance

The Running Deer site and other prehistoric and historic sites with important scientific values and relationships to sites in the adjacent national monument.

Management Actions

Install fences or barriers to exclude livestock from the Running Deer site.

Withdraw the ACEC from mineral entry, close it to mineral and geothermal leasing, and close to mineral material disposal.

Implement measures to protect cultural sites.

Limit commercial tours and special recreation permits. Limit tours to those conducted for educational purposes in conjunction with site recording or protection projects.

Close all routes that lead directly to significant sites.

Administrative Actions

Complete Class III (intensive) cultural inventories of previously unsurveyed areas and permit BLM-approved scientific studies.

Continue to patrol sites with volunteer help and add this area to the territory regularly monitored by the Civil Air Patrol.

2.4.2.2.1.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

Within the Black Canyon MU, the two methods used to determine lands suitable for disposal; generated no parcels by the first method and 5,020 acres by the second. For a description of the methods used, see the Lands and Realty discussion at the beginning of the description of *Alternative C* for the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area. See the lands that are suitable for disposal on Map 2-40.

Communication Sites

One designated communication site is located within this MU. The Black Canyon City communication site would be retained and subject to valid existing rights.

Utility and Transportation Corridors

The portion of the Black Canyon corridor to the west of Interstate 17 would be widened for future utility development. The western boundary of the corridor would be adjusted to be 2 miles west of the true center of I-17.

2.4.2.2.1.3 Biological Resources

No other biological resource allocations are located within this MU.

2.4.2.2.1.4 Cultural Resources

Land Use Allocation

Black Canyon Corridor SCRMA

Desired Future Condition

A variety of prehistoric and historic sites for interpretation, educational use, and public visitation would be available. For further information on public use of cultural resources, see Appendix E.

Management Actions

A combination of the some or all of following and other actions could be implemented at selected sites:

- parking areas,
- platforms,
- restrooms,
- picnic tables,
- benches,
- trash receptacles,
- signs along routes and trails to direct visitors to interpreted sites,
- hard-surfaced walking trails,
- interpretive signs and register boxes, and
- brochures and related educational materials or programs.

Stabilize, repair, and maintain sites in good condition.

Authorize commercial and noncommercial group tours, conducted with protective stipulations in accordance with BLM's regulations and, where required, SRPs.

Administrative Actions

Select specific sites for public use by considering the following factors:

- presence of aboveground features of interest to the public and amenable to interpretive development,
- accessibility to communities, travel routes, and recreation trails,
- site condition and the feasibility of stabilizing selected areas or features to withstand visitation,
- visitor safety,
- compatibility with other land uses and site values, such as traditional use by Native Americans,
- feasibility of regular inspections by BLM staff and volunteers, and
- partnership opportunities for interpretive and educational projects.

The BLM's recreation program would help develop sites for public use.

Cooperate with agencies, tribes, and local communities to develop heritage tourism programs that benefit local economies. Develop historic properties for heritage tourism in a way that contributes to their long-term preservation and productive use.

BLM would continue to work with the Site Steward Program to regularly monitor the condition of sites.

2.4.2.2.1.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

Table Mesa SRMA

Desired Future Condition

Manage for intensive camping, OHV use, equestrian activities, and casual use mining. The SRMA would offer a diverse network of motorized single and two-track routes for general motorized recreation use, commercial use, and organized events.

Emphasize acceptable dust control and compatibility with neighboring communities and landowners.

Emphasize motorized recreation settings. Users may be concentrated in some areas, but use is mainly dispersed.

Develop some facilities; however, stress preserving the natural environment in recreation management. Develop only the facilities needed to meet resource management objectives.

Management Actions

Locate and develop a staging/camping area to meet the high recreation demand. Provide for the following:

- parking and unloading of OHVs,
- overnight camping,
- event operations,
- informational signing,
- dust abatement, and
- human health and safety.

Limit to 10 acres the areas of exposed barren soil.

Prohibit motorized competitive races in the SRMA.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.4.2.2.1.7.

Administrative Actions

Determine specific areas where comprehensive site assessments would be initiated to do the following:

- determine existing physical and social impacts of recreation activities,
- define desired conditions and standards, and
- establish monitoring plans to manage camping and other recreation uses.

Land Use Allocation

The remaining lands within the Management Unit would be allocated as an Extensive Recreation Management Area.

2.4.2.2.1.6 Wilderness Characteristics

Land Use Allocation

Within the Black Canyon Management unit, 14,880 acres would be allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics as shown on Map 2-54.

Desired Future Condition

In addition to the DFC and management actions described in the Wilderness Characteristics discussion of the Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of Chapter 2, the following apply to this allocation.

Manage with an emphasis on non-motorized and primitive recreation experiences, tied to open space and natural landscapes. Desired recreation settings would be semi-primitive non-motorized with semi-primitive motorized along boundaries.

Sections of the Black Canyon Trail's current alignment traversing this area would be managed as a primitive multi-use trail, open to use by four-wheel-drive vehicles, ATVs, motorcycles, mountain bikes, hikers, and horses. A non-motorized Black Canyon Trail alignment is currently being surveyed and constructed through this area.

Management Actions

Close all secondary, tertiary, reclaiming, and single-track vehicle routes and washes not part of the Black Canyon Trail sections mentioned above.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.4.2.2.1.7.

The current alignment of the Black Canyon Trail would be maintained and managed as a multi-use route.

Develop non-motorized trails to link with community trail systems.

Close the areas to mineral material disposal and vegetation sales.

Administrative Actions

Undertake detailed inventory and analysis to develop standards to maintain proper levels of recreation disturbance within each recreation setting.

2.4.2.2.1.7 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative C* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-36.

Within the Black Canyon Management Unit:

- the Table Mesa SRMA would be allocated to VRM Class III,
- lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics would be allocated to VRM Class II objectives,
- utility corridors would be allocated to VRM Class III or IV, and
- the rest of the Management Unit would be allocated to VRM classes as portrayed on Map 2-36.

2.4.2.2.1.8 Mineral Resource Management

Black Mesa ACEC would be withdrawn from mineral entry, closed to mineral and geothermal leasing, and closed to mineral material disposal.

Lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics would be closed to mineral material disposal.

2.4.2.2.1.9 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

The Black Canyon Management Unit would be allocated as a limited use area, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes (Map 2-16).

Other Resource Allocations with Transportation and Public Access Prescriptions

The Table Mesa SRMA and other recreation allocations are discussed in section 2.4.2.2.1.5. The Table Mesa SRMA would offer a variety of experiences as part of a diverse network of motorized single and two-track routes for general motorized recreation use, commercial use, organized events, and equestrian activities.

Allocations to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics are discussed in section 2.4.2.2.1.6.

SCRMAs and cultural sites allocated to Public Use are discussed in the Cultural Resources section 2.4.2.2.1.4.

Management Actions

No cross-country motorized travel would be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

Close all secondary, tertiary, reclaiming, and single-track vehicle routes and washes not part of the Black Canyon Trail sections, in order to secure wilderness character on lands managed to maintain or enhance wilderness character.

Sections of the Black Canyon Trail's current alignment traversing this area would be managed and maintained as a primitive multi-use trail, open to use by four-wheel-drive vehicles, ATVs, motorcycles, mountain bikes, foot travel, and horses. A non-motorized Black Canyon Trail alignment is currently being surveyed and constructed through this area.

Close all routes that lead directly to significant cultural sites within the Black Mesa ACEC.

Develop non-motorized trails to link with community trail systems.

2.4.2.2.2 Castle Hot Springs Management Unit

Castle Hot Springs MU is bounded by State Route 74 (the Carefree Highway) to the south, Prescott National Forest to the north, Black Canyon MU to the east, and Hassayampa MU to the west (Map 2-48). The MU contains the following lands:

- 112,430 acres of BLM-administered land,
- 53,730 acres of Arizona State land,
- 32,560 acres of private land,
- 22,870 acres of county park lands in both Maricopa and Yavapai Counties (Lake Pleasant Regional Park), and
- 1,100 acres of Bureau of Reclamation lands not within Lake Pleasant Regional Park.

2.4.2.2.2.1 Special Area Designations

Current Special Area Designations within the Management Unit would be managed consistent with management actions described in section 2.7.3.2 in the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area section of this chapter.

Tule Creek ACEC (640 acres)

Relevance

Tule Creek ACEC contains significant historic and cultural values, including the Fort Tule site, a prehistoric hilltop ruin occupied from about A.D. 1100 to 1300, and a homesite occupied by miners in the 1920s and 1930s. Tule Creek is an example of rare Sonoran Desert riparian system dominated by emergent vegetation and occupied by the endangered Gila topminnow.

Importance

The Fort Tule cultural site was probably used as a significant connection in a regional communication system based on signaling among hilltop sites. Its role in the communication system can offer important information on prehistoric social systems during the era in which it was used.

Tule Creek and its sensitive biological resources are extremely vulnerable to disturbance and degradation from vehicles, mining, and livestock use. Continued protecting of Tule Creek is important to the recovery of the endangered Gila topminnow.

Desired Future Condition

The integrity of the riparian area, endangered species habitat, and cultural resources are protected from degradation.

Management Actions

Close the fenced area to livestock grazing and motorized vehicles.

Withdraw the ACEC from mineral entry, close it to mineral and geothermal leasing, and close to mineral material disposal.

Administrative Decision

Continue to patrol archaeological sites and, where needed, implement measures to protect sites.

Sheep Mountain RNA ACEC (4,270 acres)

Relevance

Biological resources, including desert tortoise habitat and potential desert bighorn sheep habitat; recreation opportunities; open space.

Importance

Highly scenic area with high-quality wildlife habitat undisturbed by vehicle routes and human activity.

Desired Future Condition

Semi-primitive non-motorized recreation setting throughout the entire area.

A diversity of non-motorized trail-based opportunities in a natural setting.

Broad expanses of natural appearing Sonoran Desert landscapes that continue to contribute to the open space, primitive recreation, and solitude opportunities near the urban centers of the Greater Phoenix metropolitan area.

Management Actions

Close all reclaimed vehicle routes except those needed to facilitate public access to the area.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.4.2.2.2.6.

Withdraw the ACEC from mineral entry and close it to mineral and geothermal leasing and to mineral material disposal.

Prohibit vegetation sales.

2.4.2.2.2.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

Within the Castle Hot Springs MU, the two methods that were used to derive lands available for disposal; generated no parcels by the first method, and 2,270 acres by the second method. For a description of the methods used, see the Lands and Realty discussion at the beginning of the description of *Alternative C* for the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area. See lands that are suitable for disposal in Map 2-40.

Communication Sites

No designated communication sites lie within this MU.

2.4.2.2.2.3 Biological Resources

There would be no other allocations for biological resources within this MU.

2.4.2.2.2.4 Cultural Resources

Land Use Allocation

Lake Pleasant/Agua Fria SCRMA

Desired Future Condition

A variety of prehistoric and historic sites for interpretation, educational uses, and public visitation would be available. For further information on public use of cultural resources, see Appendix E.

Management Actions

A combination of some or all of following and other actions could be implemented at selected sites:

- parking areas,
- platforms,
- restrooms,
- picnic tables,
- benches,
- trash receptacles,
- signs along routes and trails to direct visitors to interpreted sites,
- hard-surfaced walking trails,
- interpretive signs and register boxes, and
- brochures and related educational materials or programs.

Implement actions to stabilize, repair, and maintain sites in good condition.

Authorize commercial and noncommercial group tours, conducted with protective stipulations in accordance with BLM's regulations and, where required, SRPs.

Administrative Actions

Specific sites for public use would be selected by considering the following factors:

- aboveground features of interest to the public and amenable to interpretation,
- accessibility to communities, travel routes, and recreation trails,
- site condition and the feasibility of stabilizing selected areas or features to withstand visitation,
- visitor safety,
- compatibility with other land uses and site values, such as traditional use by Native Americans,
- feasibility of regular inspections by BLM's staff and volunteers, and
- partnership opportunities for interpretive and educational projects.

The BLM's recreation program would help develop sites for public use.

BLM would cooperate with agencies, tribes, and local communities in supporting heritage tourism programs that benefit local economies. Develop historic properties for heritage tourism to contribute to their long-term preservation and productive use.

BLM would continue to work with the Site Steward Program to regularly monitor the condition of sites.

2.4.2.2.2.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

Hieroglyphic Mountains SRMA

Desired Future Condition

Manage mainly for intensive motorized single and two-track routes for general motorized recreation use and competitive races.

Emphasize acceptable dust control and compatibility with neighboring communities and landowners.

Maintain semi-primitive motorized and roaded-natural settings, with an emphasis on semi-primitive motorized opportunities.

Develop facilities with a variety of amenities consistent with the desired recreation setting. Visitors could expect contact with BLM's representatives daily or more often. Nonintrusive signing would be present in most of the SRMA but might be absent in some areas.

Users would be concentrated in staging and camping areas, but most use would be dispersed.

Management Actions

Designate all motorized vehicle routes within this SRMA for general motorized recreation use, commercial use, organized OHV events, and competitive races.

Locate at least 20 miles of single and two-track routes for motorized competitive races to provide a unique array of challenges for motorcycle and ATV competitive racing.

Limit the number of motorized competitive races to 2 per year.

Locate and develop a staging/camping area for the following purposes:

- meeting the high recreation demand,
- parking and unloading OHVs,
- overnight camping,
- event operations,
- informational signing,
- dust abatement, and
- human health and safety.

Limit to 20 acres the area of exposed barren soil.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.4.2.2.2.6.

Land Use Allocation

The lands remaining in the Management Unit would be allocated to an Extensive Recreation Management Area.

2.4.2.2.2.6 Wilderness Characteristics

Land Use Allocation

In the Castle Hot Springs Management Unit, 9,080 acres would be allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics (Map 2-31).

In addition to the DFC and management actions described in the Wilderness Characteristics discussion of the Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of this chapter, the following apply to this allocation.

Desired Future Condition

The area would be managed mainly for emphasis on non-motorized recreation experiences, open space, and natural landscapes to complement Lake Pleasant Regional Park. Recreation settings of semi-primitive non-motorized would be maintained throughout the area. Natural landscape values and remoteness would be maintained.

The current mix of motorized and non-motorized recreation settings, associated landscapes, and experiences would be maintained.

Management Actions

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.3.2.2.2.7.

As many as three non-motorized trails and trailheads would be developed to link with other trails, allow loop hikes, and provide a variety of trail experiences.

Mineral material disposals, vegetation sales, and new roads, and rights-of-way would be prohibited.

Vehicles would be confined to designated routes. Reclaiming and eroded routes, hillside climbs, and washes would be closed to motorized travel.

2.4.2.2.2.7 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative C* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-36.

Within the Castle Hot springs Management Unit:

- the Baldy Mountain ONA ACEC and the Sheep Mountain RNA ACEC would be allocated to VRM Class I objectives,
- the Hieroglyphic Mountains SRMA would be allocated to VRM Class III objectives,
- the Hells Canyon Wilderness would continue to be allocated to VRM Class I objectives, and
- in areas not listed above, VRM classes would be as portrayed on Map 2-36.

2.4.2.2.2.8 Mineral Resource Management

Management Actions

Tule Creek ACEC, Baldy Mountain ONA ACEC, and Sheep Mountain RNA ACEC would be withdrawn from mineral entry, closed to mineral and geothermal leasing, and closed to mineral material disposal.

2.4.2.2.2.9 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

The Castle Hot Springs Management Unit would be allocated as a limited use area, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes (Map 2-16).

Other Resource Allocations with Transportation and Public Access Prescriptions

ACECs are discussed in Special Areas Designations section 2.4.2.2.2.1. RMAs and other recreation allocations are discussed in section 2.4.2.2.2.5.

SCRMAs and cultural resources sites allocated to Public Use are discussed in section 2.4.2.2.2.4.

Management Actions

Limit all vehicles to designated routes. No cross-country motorized travel would be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

Close all secondary, tertiary, single-track, washes, and reclaiming vehicle routes within the Baldy Mountain ONA/ACEC. Build non-motorized trails with up to three trailheads within the ONA/ACEC, offering loop hikes, and connection to other trails.

Close the fenced area within the Tule Creek ACEC to motorized vehicles.

Within the Hieroglyphic Mountains SRMA, manage mainly for intensive motorized single and two-track routes for general motorized recreation use and competitive races. Designate all motorized vehicle routes within the SRMA for general motorized recreation use, commercial use, organized OHV events and competitive races. Locate at least 20 miles of single and two-track routes for motorized competitive races to provide a unique array of challenges for motorcycle and ATV competitive racing.

Close all reclaimed vehicle routes within the Sheep Mountain ONA/ACEC except those needed to facilitate public access to the area.

Consider developing hard-surfaced walking trails within the Lake Pleasant/Agua Fria SCRMA for interpretation, educational uses, and public visitation.

2.4.2.2.3 Hassayampa Management Unit

The Hassayampa MU contains the Town of Wickenburg at its center. It is bounded on the east by Prescott National Forest and the Castle Hot Springs MU, and on the west by the Harquahala MU. The southern edge is south of the Vulture Mountains, and the MU extends north past Yarnell (Map 2-49).

The MU contains the following land:

- 181,910 acres of BLM administered lands,
- 130,580 acres of Arizona State land,
- 50,610 acres of private land, and
- 460 acres of county-administered lands in both Maricopa and Yavapai Counties.

2.4.2.2.3.1 Special Area Designations

Current Special Area Designations within the Management Unit would be managed consistent with Management Actions described in section 2.7.3.2 in the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area section of this chapter.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Vulture Mountains ACEC (2,790 acres)

Relevance

The cliffs along the crest of Vulture and Caballeros Peaks are significant habitat features used by many species of raptors, as well as

being a pristine, scenic landmark. These cliffs are essential to the maintenance of the current biological diversity of the surrounding area. Large concentrations of nesting hawks and falcons use these spectacular cliff faces.

Importance

The value of the cliffs for nesting raptors is significant for a large area. These cliffs are virtually the only suitable nesting cliffs for many miles. Nesting raptors are sensitive to construction-related activities. If the cliffs and surrounding area are not protected from these activities, cliff-nesting raptors would disappear from much of the area.

Desired Future Condition

Maintain the raptor nesting habitat on the cliffs and the surrounding foraging habitat.

Management Actions

Prohibit mineral material disposal.

The ACEC boundary would be a 1/2 buffer of significant cliffs.

Prohibit building new recreation sites.

Close, limit, or mitigate vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining wildlife habitat and cultural resources to ensure achieving the DFC.

Prohibit building of new vehicle routes.

Prohibit rock climbing in the ACEC.

Acquire non-Federal lands within the ACEC as available.

Back Country Byway

Constellation Mine Road

Desired Future Condition

This back country byway would provide a vehicle-based, backcountry experience with amenities to heighten visitor experiences and to educate and inform visitors about interesting natural and cultural features along the route. Visitors could expect the road to occasionally be difficult and settings to be remote. The road might not be accessible to all classes of vehicles. High clearance might be needed to travel the whole route. The road does not fragment wildlife habitat or limit wildlife movement. Establish and maintain a semi-primitive motorized recreation setting ½ mile to either side of the road's centerline.

Management Actions

Evaluate and nominate for potential designation as a national back country byway.

Maintain the public portions of this road at a BLM Level 2 standard (BLM 9100 Manual) and passable by high-clearance vehicles.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.4.2.2.3.7.

Secure easements and rights-of-way where needed to ensure long-term public access along Constellation Mine Road.

Interpret the route’s historical features, including original road-building structures; mining properties and districts; and historic homesteads, settlements, and ranching history.

Install directional, safety, and interpretive signs to enhance public use, enjoyment, and stewardship of the route.

Administrative Actions

Establish a friends group to maintain, monitor, and help interpret the route, and present the route and area’s natural and human history.

2.4.2.2.3.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

Within the Hassayampa MU the two methods that were used to derive lands available for disposal, generated no parcels by the first method; and 10,340 acres by the second method. For a description of the methods used, see the Lands and Realty discussion at the beginning of the description of *Alternative C* for the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area. See lands that are suitable for disposal on Map 2-40.

In support of the Yarnell Special Recreation Management Area:

- Retain in public ownership Sections 22, 23, and 27 (Map 2-32) and all landing zones below Yarnell Hill.
- Acquire legal public access to the Yarnell hang gliding launching area through easements, rights-of-way, or land acquisition.
- Acquire the Arizona State Trust parcel southwest of Yarnell containing Fool's Gulch (Section 22) through purchase, legislation, or exchange.
- Prohibit new overhead powerlines, phone lines, or communication facilities within 1 mile of launching and identified landing zones.

In support of the Wickenburg Special Recreation Management Area:

- Acquire the 19,396 acres of State land within the SRMA. Prioritize and pursue acquisition using the criteria in the Lands and Realty discussion of the Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of Chapter 2. Lands would be acquired according to the following priorities:
    - maintaining access and securing trail alignments,
    - enhancing recreation opportunities,
    - preserving scenery and open space, and
    - conserving riparian values.

Communication Sites

No designated communication sites are within this MU.

2.4.2.2.3.3 Biological Resources

There would be no other biological resource allocations within this MU.

2.4.2.2.3.4 Cultural Resources

Land Use Allocation

Wickenburg/Vulture SCRMA

Desired Future Condition

Manage a variety of prehistoric and historic sites for interpretation, education, and public visitation. For further information on public use of cultural resources, see Appendix E.

Management Actions

A combination of some or all of following and other actions could be implemented at selected sites:

- platforms,
- restrooms,
- picnic tables,
- benches,
- trash receptacles,
- signs along routes and trails to direct visitors to interpreted sites,
- hard-surfaced walking trails,
- interpretive signs and register boxes, and
- brochures and related educational materials or programs

Stabilize, repair, and maintain sites in good condition.

Authorize commercial and noncommercial group tours with protective stipulations in

accordance with BLM regulations and, where required, SRPs.

Administrative Actions

Select sites for public use considering the following factors:

- presence of aboveground features of interest to the public and amenable to interpretive development,
- accessibility to communities, travel routes, and recreation trails,
- condition of the site and the feasibility of stabilizing selected areas or features to withstand visitation,
- visitor safety,
- compatibility with other land uses and site values, such as traditional use by Native Americans,
- feasibility of regular inspections by BLM's staff and volunteers, and
- partnership opportunities for interpretive and educational projects.

The BLM's recreation program would participate in developing sites for public use.

Cooperate with agencies, tribes, and local communities to support heritage tourism programs that benefit local economies. Develop historic properties for heritage tourism to contribute to their long-term preservation and productive use.

BLM would continue to work with the Site Steward Program to regularly monitor the condition of sites.

2.4.2.2.3.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

Stanton SRMA

Desired Future Condition

Provide an area to accommodate intensive recreation public uses and desired settings. This area would continue to allow other diverse recreation experiences while improving unacceptable environmental impacts from the following:

- excessive and unregulated camping,
- recreation activities of prospecting clubs, and
- motorized and other recreation uses.

Maintain a variety of recreation settings and opportunities with an emphasis on semi-primitive motorized and roaded-natural settings and associated recreation experiences.

Management Actions

Locate and develop trailheads, staging and camping areas, and other facilities.

Designate a diverse network of motorized vehicle routes open to a range of OHV experiences and challenges.

Limit the number of motorized competitive races to 1 per year.

Install informational, educational, and interpretive kiosks and trail signs where suitable.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.4.2.2.3.7.

Administrative Actions

Determine specific areas where assessments would be initiated to do the following:

- define detailed desired conditions,
- define standards, and
- establish monitoring plans to manage camping and other recreation uses.

Land Use Allocation

Yarnell SRMA

Desired Future Condition

This site is one of the most valued in Arizona for launching successful long-distance, non-powered flights. Maintain long-term public access to the Yarnell hang gliding launching area. In addition, maintain the landing areas and approaches to landing areas as free of flight hazards as possible.

Management Actions

Lands actions to support this SRMA are described in the Lands and Realty section. 2.4.2.2.3.2.

Land Use Allocation

Wickenburg SRMA

Desired Future Condition

Establish a system of high-quality equestrian trails surrounding Wickenburg to buffer the area from urban sprawl and preserve the open space value of the local landscape. This trail system would afford many opportunities for recreation enthusiasts and enhance the lifestyle, culture, and cultural history of community residents.

Offer properly managed and marketed quality recreation and tourism, promoting conservation, a strong land ethic, and protect the natural resources and cultural heritage of the Wickenburg SRMA.

Manage the area of the proposed SRMA for a DFC that emphasizes the value of open space, scenic and visual quality, and cultural and biological assets. Manage the lands within the SRMA for multiple-use, including livestock grazing and OHV use.

Emphasize and maintain, in suitable areas, an array of rural, roaded-natural, semi-primitive motorized, and semi-primitive non-motorized settings and associated experiences and opportunities for residents, tourists, and winter visitors.

Management Actions

Locate and develop a non-motorized trailhead for the Red Top Trail System to meet the high demand for non-motorized recreation and provide for the following:

- vehicle parking,
- unloading of animals,
- overnight camping,
- event operations,
- informational signing,
- dust abatement, and
- human health and safety.

Limit to 20 acres the area of exposed barren soil.

Locate and develop an ATV and a motorcycle trail network in the Red Top Trail area to give the local community motorized recreation opportunities and to shift motorized use from designated non-motorized trails. Use existing designated motorized vehicle routes, and, if necessary, create new routes less than 52 inches wide to meet the objective.

Prohibit motorized competitive races in the SRMA.

Locate and develop at least one small parking area for OHV parking and unloading. Limit to 5 acres the area of exposed barren soil.

Maintain and upgrade the Vulture Peak Trail by rerouting some trail segments.

Lands actions to support this SRMA are described in the Lands and Realty section. 2.4.2.2.3.2.

Develop special facilities for horse camping in the area south of Vulture Peak and south of Congress. These facilities could provide water

for horses, electrical hook-ups for trailers, and more primitive horse camping facilities.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.4.2.2.3.7.

Withdraw from mineral entry, close to mineral and geothermal leasing, and close to mineral material disposal, an area around Box Canyon on the Hassayampa River to permanently protect its scenic quality and recreation values. The withdrawal would include the following sections: Township 8 North, Range 5 West, sections 12, 13, and 24; and Township 8 North, Range 4 West, sections 7, 18, 19, 20, 29, and 30. (Map 2-55).

Administrative Actions

Collaborate with a diverse group of Wickenburg citizens to conserve the ecological, cultural, open space, and recreation values of the Wickenburg area so that it remains a place where people want to live, work, and play.

Write a comprehensive strategy and trails plan to select and develop new single-use and multi-use hiking, equestrian, and OHV trails for all lands in the SRMA.

Land Use Allocation

San Domingo SRMA

Desired Future Condition

Provide a Sonoran Desert wash and upland environment suitable for an array of motorized and non-motorized activities. Manage for roaded-natural, semi-primitive motorized, and semi-primitive non-motorized recreation settings.

Provide opportunities for the following while protecting the natural and cultural resources in the area:

- intensive camping,
- OHV activities,
- equestrian use,
- recreation activities of prospecting clubs,
- event operations, and
- motorized single and two-track routes for general motorized recreation use and competitive races.

Management Actions

Locate and develop trailheads, staging and camping areas, and other facilities as needed for recreation activities. Limit to 10 acres the areas of exposed barren soil.

Limit the number of motorized competitive races to 1 per year.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.4.2.2.3.7.

Administrative Actions

Determine specific areas where comprehensive site assessments would be initiated to do the following:

- determine existing physical and social impacts of recreation activities,
- define desired conditions and standards, and
- establish monitoring plans to manage camping and other recreation uses.

Land Use Allocation

Vulture Mine SRMA

Desired Future Condition

Provide a Sonoran Desert landscape suitable for intensive motorized single and two-track routes for general motorized recreation use, commercial use, organized OHV events and competitive races.

Emphasize and maintain the current roaded-natural and semi-primitive motorized recreation settings and associated opportunities.

Preserve the mining and settlement history of the Vulture City Cemetery.

Management Actions

Designate a minimum of 20 miles of motorized single and two-track routes for competitive races to provide a unique array of challenges for truck, buggy, ATV, and motorcycle competitive racing.

Limit the number of motorized competitive races to 2 per year.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.4.2.2.3.7.

Administrative Actions

Determine specific areas where comprehensive site assessments would be initiated to do the following:

- determine existing physical and social impacts of recreation activities,
- define desired conditions and standards, and
- establish monitoring plans to manage camping and other recreation uses.

Write a site management and interpretation plan for the Vulture City Cemetery.

Land Use Allocation

The remaining lands within the Management Unit would be allocated as an Extensive Recreation Management Area.

2.4.2.2.3.6 Wilderness Characteristics

Land Use Allocation

Within the Hassayampa Management Unit, 13,200 acres would be allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics as shown on Map 2-54.

Desired Future Condition

In addition to the DFC and management actions described in the Wilderness Characteristics discussion of the Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of Chapter 2, the following apply to this allocation:

Manage for open space and generally natural landscapes. Emphasize a recreation setting of semi-primitive non-motorized.

Maintain availability of non-motorized recreation opportunities.

Management Actions

Close tertiary, primitive, reclaiming, single-track vehicle routes and washes to motorized use.

Retain access to the Fools Canyon OHV route between the Hassayampa River Canyon Wilderness and lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.4.2.2.3.7.

Prohibit mineral material disposal and vegetation sales.

2.4.2.2.3.7 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative C* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-36.

Within the Hassayampa Management Unit, allocate:

- Constellation Mine Road Back Country Byway to VRM Class II objectives ½ mile to either side of the road's centerline.
- Lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics to VRM Class I objectives.
- Wickenburg SRMA to VRM Class II objectives except areas with desired recreation settings of rural or roaded-natural and areas open to mineral development to VRM Class III objectives.
- San Domingo, Stanton, and Vulture Mine SRMAs to VRM Class III.
- Hassayampa River Canyon Wilderness to VRM Class I objectives.
- Utility corridors would be allocated to VRM Class III or IV.
- Areas not listed above would be allocated to VRM classes as portrayed on Map 2-36.

2.4.2.2.3.8 Mineral Resource Management

Management Actions

Close Vulture Mountains ACEC to mineral material disposal.

Close lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics to mineral material disposal.

Close and withdraw from mineral entry, mineral and geothermal leasing, and mineral material disposal an area within Wickenburg SRMA and around Box Canyon, to include the following sections:

- Township 8 North, Range 5 West, sections 12, 13, and 24.
- Township 8 North, Range 4 West, sections 7, 18, 19, 20, 29, and 30.

2.4.2.2.3.9 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

The Hassayampa Management Unit would be allocated as a limited use area, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes (Map 2-16).

Other Resource Allocations with Transportation and Public Access Prescriptions

ACECs are discussed in the Special Area Designation section 2.4.2.2.3.1.

SCRMAs and cultural resource sites allocated to Public Use are discussed in section 2.4.2.2.3.4.

SRMAs and other recreation allocations are discussed in section 2.4.2.2.3.5.

Allocations to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics are discussed in section 2.4.2.2.3.6.

Management Actions

No cross-country motorized travel would be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

The Stanton SRMA would include a diverse network of motorized vehicle routes open to a range of OHV experiences and challenges.

The Wickenburg SRMA would feature a system of high-quality equestrian trails surrounding Wickenburg. Transportation related prescriptions include:

- Locate and develop a non-motorized trailhead for the Red Top Trail System to meet the high demand for non-motorized recreation.
- Locate and develop an ATV and a motorcycle trail network in the Red Top Trail area. Use existing designated motorized vehicle routes, and, if necessary, create new routes less than 52 inches wide to meet the objective.

- Maintain and upgrade the Vulture Peak Trail by rerouting some trail segments.

The San Domingo SRMA would offer a Sonoran Desert wash and upland environment suitable for an array of motorized and non-motorized activities.

The Vulture Mine SRMA would provide a Sonoran Desert landscape suitable for intensive motorized single and two-track routes for general motorized recreation use, commercial use, organized OHV events and competitive races. Locate a minimum of 20 miles of motorized single and two-track routes for competitive races to provide a unique array of challenges for truck, buggy, ATV, and motorcycle competitive racing.

Close the Vulture Peak ACEC to road building.

Close tertiary, primitive, reclaiming, single-track vehicle routes and washes to motorized use on 13,200 acres allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics as shown on Map 2-32. Retain access to the Fools Canyon OHV route between the Hassayampa River Canyon Wilderness and lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics.

Consider construction of hard-surfaced walking trails at selected sites within the Wickenburg/Vulture SCRMA for interpretation, education, and visitation.

Implementation Actions

Write a comprehensive strategy and trails plan to select and to develop new single-use and multi-use hiking, equestrian, and OHV trails for all lands in the Wickenburg SRMA.

2.4.2.2.4 Harquahala Management Unit

Alternatives C, D, and *E* would slightly expand the Harquahala MU. The MU is still bounded on the east by the Hassayampa MU and extends west to the Field Office boundary, near the town of Wenden. However, the MU's southern boundary now includes the private and State land south to Interstate 10. The northern boundary still follows BLM's property line south of US Route 60, which goes west of Wickenburg, through Aguila, and through Wenden (Map 2-50).

The Harquahala MU contains the following land:

- 420,730 acres of BLM-administered lands,
- 48,410 acres of Arizona State land, and
- 29,616 acres of private land.

2.4.2.2.4.1 Special Area Designations

Current Special Area Designations within the Management Unit would be managed consistent with management actions described in section 2.7.3.2 in the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area section of this chapter.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC (41,670 acres)

Relevance

The area constitutes a rare, intact, mountaintop vegetation community surrounded by low desert. The mountains contain a biologically diverse system, in stark contrast to the surrounding landscape, and support a diverse sky island ecosystem, with many species not found in the surrounding Sonoran Desert. The mountains are a natural and mainly roadless area with few noticeable human intrusions in a primitive landscape setting.

Importance

The ONA does the following:

- encloses and preserves a unique assemblage of biological resources,
- conserves significant cultural and historic sites, and
- protects a distinctive vegetation community.

The biological richness of the Harquahala Mountains is unique within southwest Arizona. The Harquahala Mountains and surrounding bajadas provide important wildlife habitat to a diverse array of wildlife species. The area is an ecoregional conservation site with important biodiversity values.

The ONA contains the Harquahala Mountain Observatory National Register of Historic Places district. Besides the observatory itself; the historic Harquahala Peak Pack Trail, Ellison's Camp, and other sites are also components of the historic district. The area also includes many well-preserved prehistoric sites and historic ranching and mining sites. Some archaeological sites may be related to the use of the mountain range by a regional group of the Western Yavapai Tribe.

The ONA will safeguard important and unfragmented wildlife habitat.

Desired Future Condition

The integrity of the vegetation communities, historical features, and prehistoric sites are protected from degradation. Unfragmented wildlife habitat provides adequate forage, cover, and access to water for healthy wildlife populations.

Management Actions

Prohibit building new vehicle routes.

Withdraw the ACEC from mineral entry, close to mineral and geothermal leasing, and close to mineral material disposal.

Protect spring sources by not allowing surface-disturbing activities.

Acquire all available State and private lands from willing sellers.

Close, limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining wildlife habitat and cultural resources to ensure achieving DFC.

Prohibit building new recreation sites.

Prohibit livestock grazing during bighorn sheep lambing season (January 1 to April 1).

Undertake actions to protect important cultural resources. Maintain the Harquahala Observatory historical site and its interpretive facilities in their current condition.

Prohibit developing grazing improvements that would increase livestock use in Browns Canyon and the Inner Basin.

Administrative Actions

Undertake an inventory of cultural resources to identify and to evaluate sites, determine proper site uses, and develop and implement protection measures for cultural resources within the ACEC.

Black Butte ACEC (800 acres)

Relevance

Biological resources.

Significant source of material for prehistoric tool production.

Importance

Important raptor nesting habitat in central area.

The "Vulture" source of obsidian was a major source of obsidian for prehistoric groups.

Desired Future Condition

The raptor nesting habitat values of the cliffs and the surrounding foraging habitat are maintained.

The integrity of the archeological sites is protected from disturbance or degradation.

Management Actions

Prohibit mineral material disposal.

The ACEC boundary would be a ½ mile buffer of significant cliffs.

Prohibit building of new recreation sites.

Close all routes within the ACEC. Close, limit, or suitably mitigate other vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining wildlife habitat and cultural resources to achieve the DFC.

Prohibit building new roads and motorized routes.

The "Vulture" obsidian source is a highly valued site within the ACEC. Prohibit actions that would threaten its integrity. Permit scientific study that advances local and regional archaeological knowledge if the integrity of the site is maintained.

Prohibit rock climbing in the ACEC.

2.4.2.2.4.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

Within the Harquahala MU, the two methods used to derive lands available for disposal generated no parcels by the first method and 8,210 acres by the second method. For a description of the methods used, see the Lands and Realty discussion at the beginning of the description of *Alternative C* for the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area. See lands that are suitable for disposal on Map 2-40.

Communication Sites

The Harquahala Peak communication site would be the only designated communication site within this MU. New communication sites will be authorized only at existing designated communication sites.

2.4.2.2.4.3 Biological Resources

Land Use Allocation

Belmont/Big Horn Mountains WHA Area

Desired Future Condition

Maintain the wildlife and plant diversity and species richness of the Sonoran Desert scrub vegetation community. Maintain unfragmented wildlife habitat that provides adequate forage, cover, and access to water for healthy wildlife populations.

Management Actions

Prohibit building new fences.

Close, limit, or suitably mitigate motorized vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining wildlife habitat values to ensure achieving DFC.

Arizona State and private lands would be acquired from willing sellers when available.

Maintenance of wildlife habitat would be given management priority in resolving resource conflicts.

Land Use Allocation

Harquahala/Belmont/Big Horn Wildlife Corridor

Desired Future Condition

Maintain the plant diversity and richness of the chaparral and Sonoran Desert scrub vegetation communities. Maintain unfragmented wildlife habitat that provides adequate forage, cover, and access to water for healthy wildlife populations.

Management Actions

Arizona State and private lands would be acquired from willing sellers when available.

Close, limit, or suitably mitigate motorized vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining wildlife habitat values to ensure achieving DFC.

Design all future improvements to motorized vehicle routes to ensure wildlife habitat is not fragmented and wildlife movement is unimpeded, especially for desert bighorn sheep and desert tortoise.

Maintenance of wildlife habitat would be given management priority in resolving resource conflicts.

2.4.2.2.4.4 Cultural Resources

Land Use Allocation

Harquahala Mountains SCRMA

Desired Future Condition

A variety of prehistoric and historic sites would be managed for interpretation, education, and public visitation. For further information on public use of cultural resources, see Appendix E.

Management Actions

A combination of some or all of the following and other actions could be implemented at selected sites:

- platforms,
- restrooms,
- picnic tables,
- benches,
- trash receptacles,
- signs along routes and trails to direct visitors to interpreted sites,
- hard-surfaced walking trails,
- interpretive signs and register boxes,
- brochures and related educational materials or programs.

Stabilize, repair, and maintain sites in good condition.

Authorize, with protective stipulations, commercial and noncommercial group tours in accordance with BLM's regulations and, where required, SRPs.

Administrative Actions

Select sites for public use by considering the following factors:

- presence of aboveground features of interest to the public and amenable to interpretive development,
- accessibility to communities, travel routes, and recreation trails,
- site condition and the feasibility of stabilizing selected areas or features to withstand visitation,
- visitor safety,
- compatibility with other land uses and site values, such as traditional use by Native Americans,
- feasibility of regular inspections by BLM's staff and volunteers, and
- partnership opportunities for interpretive and educational projects.

The BLM's recreation program would help develop sites for public use.

BLM would cooperate with agencies, tribes, and local communities in supporting heritage tourism programs that benefit local economies. BLM would develop historic properties for heritage tourism to contribute to their long-term preservation and productive use.

BLM would continue to work with the Site Steward Program to regularly monitor the condition of sites.

2.4.2.2.4.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

The entire Harquahala MU would be allocated as an Extensive Recreation Management Area.

Implementation Actions

Select, plan, and develop at least one staging and one camping area to meet motorized and non-motorized recreation demand. Have this area provide accommodation for the following:

- parking,
- unloading OHVs and horses,
- overnight camping, and
- large organized event operations.

Development may include the following:

- informational signs,
- kiosks,
- picnic tables,
- hitching posts,
- troughs for water hauled to the site,
- loading ramp, and
- soil stabilization for dust abatement.

Limit to 15 acres the area of exposed barren soil. Mark or delineate the perimeter with barriers to prevent expansion.

In the area near Black Mountain, may designate and build as many as three loop or one-way trails for ATVs and motorcycles, with total mileage not to exceed 20 miles. These trails would be adjacent to areas managed to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics.

2.4.2.2.4.6 Wilderness Characteristics

Land Use Allocation

Within the Harquahala Management Unit, 106,840 acres would be allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics as shown on Map 2-54.

In addition to the DFC and management actions described in the Wilderness Characteristics discussion of the Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of Chapter 2, the following apply to this allocation.

Desired Future Condition

Maintain current natural conditions and open space values. Expand the availability of non-motorized trails for hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers. Emphasize non-motorized recreation. Increase availability of non-motorized recreation opportunities where practical.

Manage for recreation settings of semi-primitive non-motorized and semi-primitive motorized, with an emphasis on the following:

- maintaining land areas for primitive recreation,
- practicing backcountry skills,
- attaining isolation from other users, and
- maintaining remoteness.

Management Actions

Close tertiary, primitive, reclaiming, and single-track vehicle routes, and washes except routes providing access to active and maintained facilities, waters, or other authorized uses. Retain the main transportation and travel network for continued use.

Motorized competitive races would not be permitted.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.4.2.2.4.7.

Prohibit mineral material disposals and vegetation sales.

Locate and develop as many as three hiking, equestrian, and bicycle trails, with total mileage not to exceed 10 miles.

Close the raptor protection area and Vulture obsidian area to vehicular travel.

Administrative Actions

Conduct a detailed inventory of current disturbances to provide a baseline for establishing detailed standards and setting trigger-points for management actions so that each recreation setting will not exceed proper levels of recreation disturbance.

2.4.2.2.4.7 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative C* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-36.

Within the Harquahala Management Unit, allocate:

- Harquahala Mountains ACEC and lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics to VRM Class II objectives.
- Utility corridors would be allocated to VRM Class III or IV.
- The rest of the Management Unit would be allocated as portrayed on Map 2-36.

2.4.2.2.4.8 Mineral Resource Management

Management Actions

Withdraw the Harquahala Mountains ACEC from mineral entry, close to mineral and geothermal leasing, and close to mineral material disposal.

Close Black Butte ACEC and lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics to mineral material disposal.

2.4.2.2.4.9 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

The Harquahala Management Unit would be allocated as a limited use area, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes (Map 2-16).

Other Resource Allocations with Transportation and Public Access Prescriptions

ACECs are discussed in the Special Area Designation section 2.4.2.2.4.1.

WHAs are discussed in the Biological Resources section 2.4.2.2.4.3.

SCRMAs and cultural resource sites allocated to Public Use are discussed in section 2.5.2.2.4.4.

SRMAs and other recreation allocations are discussed in section 2.4.2.2.4.5.

Allocations to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics are discussed in section 2.4.2.2.4.6.

Management Actions

No cross-country motorized travel would be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

Close tertiary, primitive, reclaiming, and single-track vehicle routes, and washes except routes providing access to active and maintained facilities, waters, or other authorized uses on 106,840 acres allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics as shown on Map 2-50. Locate and develop as many as three hiking, equestrian, and bicycle trails, with total mileage not to exceed 10 miles. Close to

motorized vehicle travel the raptor protection and Vulture obsidian areas within lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics.

Close, limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes within the Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC (41,670 acres) that conflict with maintaining wildlife habitat and cultural resources.

Close all routes within the Black Butte ACEC. Close, limit, or suitably mitigate other vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining wildlife habitat and cultural resources to achieve the DFC. Prohibit building new roads and motorized routes.

Close, limit, or suitably mitigate motorized vehicle routes within the Belmont/Big Horn Mountains WHA that conflict with maintaining wildlife habitat values to ensure achieving DFC.

Consider construction of hard-surfaced walking trails at selected sites within the Harquahala Mountains SCRMA for interpretation, education, and visitation.

2.4.2.2.5 Harcuvar Management Unit

The Harcuvar MU encompasses the easternmost end of the Harcuvar Mountains within the PFO's administrative area. Most of the Harcuvar Mountain range is administered by the Lake Havasu's Field Office. The Harcuvar MU is bounded on the west and north by the PFO boundary with the Lake Havasu Field Office, and on the east and south by the boundary between BLM- and non-BLM-administered lands (Map 2-51).

The Harcuvar MU contains the following lands:

- 53,200 acres of BLM-administered lands,
- 6,280 acres of Arizona State land, and
- 3,360 acres of private land.

2.4.2.2.5.1 Special Area Designations

Alternative C would propose no new special area designations within the Harcuvar MU.

2.4.2.2.5.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

No lands have been identified for disposal within this MU.

Communication Sites

No designated communication sites are within this MU.

2.4.2.2.5.3 Biological Resources

No other biological resource allocations would be proposed for this MU.

2.4.2.2.5.4 Cultural Resources

No cultural resources would be allocated to public use within this MU.

2.4.2.2.5.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

The entire MU would be allocated as an Extensive Recreation Management Area.

2.4.2.2.5.6 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative C* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-36.

Within the Harcuvar Management Unit:

- the area along the Harcuvar Mountains would be allocated to VRM Class III and
- the rest of the Management Unit would be allocated to VRM Class IV.

2.4.2.2.5.7 Mineral Resource Management

This MU would have no mineral withdrawals or closures.

2.4.2.2.5.8 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

The Harcuvar Management Unit would be allocated as a limited use area, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes (Map 2-16).

Management Actions

No cross-country motorized travel would be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

2.4.2.2.6 Upper Agua Fria River Basin Management Unit

The Upper Agua Fria River Basin MU is sandwiched between the Bradshaw Mountains Ranger District and the Verde Ranger District of the Prescott National Forest. It stretches from Cordes Lakes in the south to the Town of Prescott Valley in the north (Map 2-52).

The Upper Agua Fria River Basin MU contains the following lands:

- 21,520 acres of BLM-administered lands,
- 36,990 acres of Arizona State land, and
- 39,290 acres of private land.

2.4.2.2.6.1 Special Area Designations

Alternative C proposes no special area designations for the Upper Agua Fria River Basin MU.

2.4.2.2.6.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

Within this MU, the two methods used to determine lands available for disposal generated no parcels by the first method and 1,430 acres by the second method. For a description of the methods used, see the Lands and Realty discussion at the beginning of the description of *Alternative C,* for the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area. See the lands that are suitable for disposal on Map 2-40.

Communication Sites

There would be no designated communication sites within this MU.

2.4.2.2.6.3 Biological Resources

Land Use Allocation

Upper Agua Fria River Basin Habitat Corridor WHA

Desired Future Condition

Maintain and enhance existing wildlife habitat and ensure unimpeded wildlife movement between BLM-managed Federal lands and adjacent National Forest lands.

Management Actions

Prohibit construction of new vehicle routes and fences on the remaining lands.

Close, limit, or suitably mitigate motorized vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining

wildlife habitat values to ensure achieving the DFC.

Maintenance of wildlife habitat would be given management priority in resolving resource conflicts.

2.4.2.2.6.4 Cultural Resources

No cultural resources would be allocated to public use within this MU.

2.4.2.2.6.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

Upper Agua Fria River Basin SRMA

Desired Future Condition

Maintain the SRMA's natural landscape and open space. Offer visitors recreation opportunities, scenic community backdrops, and access to the Black Canyon Trail.

Maintaining or increasing the amount of land allocated to open space is one of the most effective ways to preserve existing natural values and recreation opportunities; and to extend new or increased levels of recreation activity in the future.

Emphasize semi-primitive motorized settings with roaded-natural along primary routes.

Management Actions

Establish new trails, parking, and staging areas, where suitable, for hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers, ATVs, and four-wheel-drive enthusiasts.

Complete the non-motorized Black Canyon Trail and develop up to three trailheads or access points for trail users.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.4.2.2.6.6.

Administrative Actions

Work with citizen volunteer groups to complete a comprehensive strategy and a trails plan to select and to develop new single-use and multi-use hiking, equestrian, and OHV trails for all lands in the SRMA. Collaborate with the AGFD, Prescott National Forest, Yavapai County, and land managers of other trails to link trails to trails on BLM's land.

Land Use Allocation

The remaining BLM's lands outside any Management Unit would be allocated as an Extensive Recreation Management Area.

2.4.2.2.6.6 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for Alternative C throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-36. The whole Upper Agua Fria River Basin Management Unit would be allocated to VRM Class III objectives.

2.4.2.2.6.7 Mineral Resource Management

Alternative C proposes no mineral withdrawals or closures for the Upper Agua Fria River Basin MU.

2.4.2.2.6.8 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

The Upper Agua Fria River Basin Management Unit would be allocated as a limited use area, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes (Map 2-16).

***Other Resource Allocations with Transportation and Public Access Prescript**ions*

WHAs are discussed in the Biological Resources section 2.4.2.2.6.3.

SRMAs and other recreation allocations are discussed in section 2.4.2.2.6.5.

Management Actions

No cross-country motorized travel would be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

Establish new trails, where suitable, for hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers, ATVs, and four-wheel-drive enthusiasts.

Complete the non-motorized Black Canyon Trail and develop up to three trailheads or access points for trail users.

Prohibit construction of new vehicle routes. Close, limit, or suitably mitigate motorized vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining wildlife habitat values to ensure achieving the DFC.

2.4.2.2.7 Resource Allocations Not Within a Management Unit

2.4.2.2.7.1 Biological Resources

Land Use Allocation

Date Creek Mountains WHA (Map 2-53)

Desired Future Condition

Maintain the wildlife/plant diversity and richness of the Sonoran Desert scrub vegetation community. Maintain unfragmented wildlife habitat that provides adequate forage, cover, and access to water for healthy wildlife populations.

Management Actions

High-quality desert tortoise habitat would become a priority for land acquisition.

Prohibit building new vehicle routes and fences.

Close, limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes that conflict with maintenance of wildlife habitat values to ensure achieving the DFC.

Maintenance of wildlife habitat would be given priority in resolving resource conflicts.

2.4.2.2.7.2 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

Skull Valley SRMA (Map 2-53)

Desired Future Condition

Retain landscape character while maintaining motorized access to routes in Prescott National Forest.

Management Actions

Transfer management of the SRMA to the adjacent Prescott National Forest.

2.4.2.2.7.3 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

These lands would be allocated as limited use areas, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes.

Other Resource Allocations with Transportation and Public Access Prescriptions

WHAs are discussed in the Biological Resources section 2.4.2.2.7.1.

Management Actions

No cross-country motorized travel would be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

Prohibit construction of new vehicle routes. Close, limit, or suitably mitigate motorized vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining wildlife habitat values to ensure achieving the DFC.

2.5 Alternative D

The following discussion, along with the desired future conditions, land use allocations, and management actions described in the Management Common to All Action Alternatives section of Chapter 2, comprise the total proposed *Alternative D.*

2.5.1 Agua Fria National Monument

Alternative D would place the strongest emphasis on protecting natural landscapes and cultural resources by limiting land uses in Agua Fria National Monument. The result would consist of limiting motorized use in the monument and closing more areas to vehicles than under the other Alternatives. To preserve natural landscapes, access would be limited, and the Back Country RMZ would encompass most of the monument. *Alternative D* would allocate most cultural resources for limited public use and would develop no areas for intensive public use. Grazing would not be authorized on public lands within the monument, and larger areas would be managed for more primitive recreation experiences.

2.5.1.1 Special Area Designations

Alternative D would designate one ACEC, the Agua Fria River Riparian Corridor (Map 2-56), to preserve the monument's riparian resources, and would study potential additions to the existing proposed wild and scenic river designation. This Alternative would maximize primitive and semi-primitive recreation opportunities, and emphasizing non-motorized activities in backcountry settings. The management actions provide for protecting monument resources and incorporating the citizen proposal for wilderness characteristics within the monument.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Removes designation of the existing Perry Mesa and Larry Canyon ACECs because the monument's proclamation (Appendix A) provides for a higher level of protection than the ACECs and management across a more extensive landscape.

Designate the following ACEC:

Agua Fria River Riparian Corridor ACEC (13,070 acres)

Relevance

Nearly intact riparian network within a desert/semi-desert grassland transition zone.

Importance

Habitat supports many special status wildlife species, including endangered fish. Special features of value for studies of a desert riparian system.

Desired Future Condition

Riparian areas are in proper functioning condition and provide high-quality habitat for a diversity of wildlife species, including fish.

The integrity of the riparian areas and wildlife habitat are maintained and protected from degradation.

Management Actions

Close, limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining riparian and wildlife values to ensure achieving the DFC.

Designate the lands along Indian Creek as a priority for acquisition.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Study the tributaries to the Agua Fria River to determine suitability for WSR designation (Map 2-56).

Back Country Byways

Alternative D proposes no back country byways.

2.5.1.2 Lands and Realty

Utility and Transportation Corridors

Eliminate the Black Canyon utility corridor from the monument. Continue to honor all existing rights-of-way and prior rights.

2.5.1.3 Biological Resources

Alternative D would designate two WHAs and one ACEC for managing biological resources within Agua Fria National Monument. *Alternative D* would drop Larry Canyon ACEC because the monument's proclamation (Appendix A) provides for a higher level of protection than an ACEC and management across a more extensive landscape.

The actions for the ACECs are described in the Special Area Designations section and shown on Map 2-56. The management actions for the WHAs, also shown on Map 2-57, are outlined below.

Land Use Allocation

Pronghorn Movement Corridor WHA

Pronghorn Fawning Habitat WHA

Desired Future Condition

Unfragmented pronghorn habitat that provides adequate forage, cover, and access to water for healthy pronghorn populations.

Management Actions

To assure achieving the DFC, close or suitably mitigate vehicle routes that:

- cross known pronghorn movement corridors and
- have a type and a volume of use that modify pronghorn behavior in ways that fragment their habitat.

Continue to use prescribed fire to improve pronghorn habitat.

Develop no new recreation sites in pronghorn movement corridors.

Maintenance of wildlife habitat would be given management priority in resolving resource conflicts.

Since *Alternative D* proposes ending livestock grazing, remove all fences, and authorizes no new ones.

2.5.1.4 Cultural Resources

Alternative D would minimally increase public access to cultural sites. Interpretive development and educational activities would be focused on the Pueblo la Plata area (Map 2-58). This area would be allocated to a public use SCRMA as shown in Table 2-5**.**

Table 2-5. Alternative D: Cultural Resource Public-Use Areas

Level of Public Use	Locations/Site
High	No areas of the monument
Moderate	Pueblo la Plata and Fort Silver (Pueblo la Plata Complex) on Perry Mesa
Low	Public use of archaeological sites would be limited in all other areas not described above

Descriptions of potential improvements and activities within special cultural resource management areas are described in the Cultural Resources description of the Management Common to Agua Fria National Monument section of Chapter 2. High use represents the most intensive degree of interpretive development, and Moderate use involves less intensive development of access and interpretive facilities. All areas of the monument not shown as a Moderate use SCRMA on Map 2-58 are considered as areas of low public use that would not be available for on-the-ground interpretive development or commercial tours.

2.5.1.5 Recreation Resources

In *Alternative D*, the entire monument would be allocated to a Special Recreation Management Area with three Recreation Management Zones within it. These zones would include a Back Country RMZ of 68,380 acres to manage and maintain the natural landscape character in the Agua Fria River Canyon, tributaries, washes, and adjacent mesas (Map 2-58). *Alternative D* calls for allocating a Passage RMZ of 990 acres along designated vehicle routes that pass through or provide access into the Back Country RMZ. The rest of the monument would be designated a Front Country RMZ (1,530 acres), where more focus would be placed on recreation and interpretive opportunities.

Descriptions of these zones and desired future conditions and management actions that apply to all Alternatives can be found in the Recreation and Public Access discussion of the Management Common to Agua Fria National Monument section of Chapter 2.

Land Use Allocation

Front Country Recreation Management Zone of 1,530 acres

Desired Future Condition

See Desired Future Condition description in section 2.7.2.7 of the Management Common to Agua Fria National Monument section of this chapter.

Management Actions

VRM Allocations to achieve the Desired Future Conditions of this Recreation Management Zone are described in section 2.5.1.6.

Throughout the monument, provide no recreation concession leases. issue no vendor permits, and authorize no Special Recreation Permits.

Dispersed Camping:

- Allow camping at designated sites only.
- Camping permits could be required if resource damage occurs that inhibits achieving resource DFCs or threatens resources protected by proclamation, or if health and safety issues emerge. If damage continues, more limitations might be required, including temporary or permanent area closures, limiting camping to designated sites, or seasonal limitations or closures.

Developed Campgrounds:

- None.

Campfires

- Prohibit campfires within ¼ mile of intensive and moderate public-use archaeological sites.
- Prohibit campfires at archaeological sites, including petroglyph (rock art) sites.
- Allow campfires at designated campsites.
- Prohibit collection of woody material for campfires. Require campfire wood to be brought in from outside the monument.

Recreational Target Shooting:

- Prohibit.

Trail Construction for Non-motorized Recreation Use

Discussion of recreation trail development can be found in the Transportation and Public Access section 2.5.1.8.

Land Use Allocation

Back Country Recreation Management Zone of 68,380 acres

Desired Future Condition

The natural landscape of the Agua Fria River Canyon, tributaries, and washes (Map 2-58) is maintained. See Desired Future Condition description in section 2.7.2.7 of the Management Common to Agua Fria National Monument section of this chapter.

Management Actions

VRM Allocations to achieve the Desired Future Conditions of this Recreation Management Zone are described in section 2.5.1.6.

Retain the motorized river crossings at Kelton Ranch, EZ Ranch, Horseshoe Ranch, and Cross Y Ranch.

Throughout the monument, provide no recreation concession leases, issue no vendor permits, and authorize no Special Recreation Permits.

Dispersed Camping:

- require a permit and
- limit camping to designated sites only.

Developed Campgrounds:

- None.

Campfires:

- Prohibit.

Recreational Target Shooting:

- Prohibit.

Trail Construction for Non-motorized Recreation Use

Discussion of recreation trail development can be found in the Transportation and Public Access section 2.5.1.8.

Land Use Allocation

Passage Recreation Management Zone of 990 acres.

Desired Future Condition

See Desired Future Condition description in section 2.7.2.7 of the Management Common to Agua Fria National Monument section of this chapter.

Management Actions

VRM Allocations to achieve the Desired Future Conditions of this Recreation Management Zone are described in section 2.5.1.6.

Throughout the monument, provide no recreation concession leases, issue no vendor permits, and authorize no Special Recreation Permits.

Dispersed Camping:

- Allow camping at designated sites only.
- Camping permits could be required if resource damage occurs that inhibits achieving resource DFCs or threatens resources protected by proclamation, or if health and safety issues emerge. If damage continues, more limitations might be required, including temporary or permanent area closures, limiting camping to designated sites, or seasonal limitations or closures.
- Prohibit camping at archaeological sites, including petroglyph (rock art) sites.
- Allow camping if at least ¼ mile from intense or moderate public-use archaeological sites.
- Camping would be prohibited within ¼ mile from water sources "...containing water in such a place that wildlife or domestic stock will be denied access to the only reasonably available water (Arizona Revised Statute 17-308, Unlawful Camping).
- Prohibit vehicles from pulling off routes in posted special areas containing sensitive resources**.**

Developed Campgrounds:

- None.

Campfires:

- Prohibit campfires within ¼ mile of intensive and moderate public-use archaeological sites.
- Prohibit campfires at archaeological sites, including petroglyph (rock art) sites.
- Allow campfires at designated campsites.
- Allow no collection of woody material for campfires. Require that any wood for campfires be brought in from outside the National Monument.

Recreational Target Shooting:

- Prohibit.

Trail Construction for Non-motorized Recreation Use

Discussion of recreation trail development can be found in the Transportation and Public Access section 2.5.1.8.

Administrative Actions

Collect site-specific baseline data to (1) determine social and resource impacts of recreation uses, (2) to establish monitoring needs and frequencies, and (3) to detect change. Where monument resources are unacceptably affected, implement more management actions, ranging from further restrictions to closure.

2.5.1.6 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative D* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-59. Within the monument, the Front Country RMZ, totaling 1,530 acres, would be allocated to VRM Class III objectives and the Back Country and Passage RMZs would be allocated to VRM Class II.

2.5.1.7 Rangeland Management

Land Use Allocation

Close grazing allotments and cancel all current livestock authorizations for the duration of the plan.

Desired Future Condition

Watersheds are in properly functioning conditions, including their upland, riparian, and aquatic components. Soil and plant conditions support infiltration, storage, and release of water that are in balance with climate and landform.

Maintain ecological processes to support healthy biotic populations and communities.

No grazing authorizations would be administered within Agua Fria National Monument. The removal of all livestock would result in the rapid achievement of the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health (Land Health Standards).

Management Actions

Build fencing around grazed lands to control livestock incursions.

Remove range-related improvements on public lands that serve no purpose for other resources. This removal would reduce the visual impact of former grazing operations.

2.5.1.8 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

The entire monument is allocated as Limited to Designated routes.

Management Actions

Cross-country motorized travel is prohibited except in the case of an emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

Within Front Country

Trail Construction for Non-motorized Use:

- Develop trails as needed to enhance resources and recreation experiences and to protect monument values.
- All construction would be compatible with Desired Future Conditions for the construction area.
- Make trail development a priority at archaeological sites developed for interpretive use and visitation.
- Consider other trails to enhance visitor access and enjoyment of monument resources. Such trails might include self-guided nature and cultural resource trails, trails to interpreted sites, or longer trails linking multiple sites for day or multiple day trips.
- Use packed soil, crushed stone, and other natural or synthetic materials.
- Design trails to fit the environment.
- Build loop, connector, and linear trails, depending on the established trail and resource objectives.
- Build trails to maintain connectivity to recreation opportunities, such as hunting, equestrian activities, hiking, and viewing cultural sites.
- Build trails to link with other connector trails beyond the monument's border.
- Where trail linkages conform to monument values and do not impair protection of monument resources, explore opportunities to link the monument's network of non-motorized trails to trails on other BLM lands, or with other adjoining jurisdictions, including Tonto and Prescott National Forests, Yavapai County, and local communities.

Route Construction for Motorized Use:

- All construction would be compatible with Desired Future Conditions for the construction area.
- Evaluate new motorized vehicle routes on a case-by-case basis, with determinations based on protecting and enhancing monument values.
- Enhance existing routes north of Bloody Basin Road to provide greater motorized recreation opportunities.
-

Off-Highway Vehicles:

- All vehicles would be limited to designated routes consistent with the discussion in the Transportation and Public Access section 2.7.2.10.
- Manage OHV access to provide for a variety of use experiences, including allowing public access to the monument's cultural and biological resources.
- All construction would be compatible with Desired Future Conditions for the construction area.

Within Back Country

Trail Construction for Non-motorized Use:

- No new trails would be built in the Back Country RMZ except to mitigate resource conflicts or concerns. Trail construction would use the least intrusive method to mitigate the conflict. A trail might simply be marked with fiberglass posts.

Route Construction for Motorized Use:

- Build no new routes within the Back Country RMZ.

Off-Highway Vehicles:

- Manage the Back Country RMZ as a non-motorized area.

Within Passage

Trail Construction for Non-motorized Use:

- Develop trails as needed to enhance resources and recreation experiences and to protect monument values.
- All construction would be compatible with Desired Future Conditions for the construction area.

Route Construction for Motorized Use:

- All construction would be compatible with Desired Future Conditions for the construction area.
- Motorized route construction would be considered only as mitigation for resource conflicts.

Off-Highway Vehicles:

- All vehicles would be limited to designated routes consistent with the discussion in the Transportation and Public Access section 2.7.2.10.
- Manage OHV access to provide for a variety of use experiences, especially to provide access for public visitation of the monument's cultural and biological resources.

Implementation Actions

Public Access

An evaluation process was used to establish a designated public access and route system to support resource objectives consistent with *Alternative D* and to protect monument resources. The results of the evaluation are shown in Map 2-60. A summary of route status and length under *Alternative D* is shown below.

Routes Open	47 miles
Routes Closed	122 miles
New Routes	0 miles

2.5.2 Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area

Alternative D emphasizes natural landscapes and non-motorized recreation, allowing visitors to experience more areas in their natural setting. *Alternative D* would provide more areas for non-motorized use than the other Alternatives and close more areas to vehicles, mining, and grazing. More management is dedicated to maintaining primitive recreation

opportunities. The MUs for *Alternative D,* are shown in Map 2-61.

2.5.2.1 Management Applicable to the Entire Bradshaw-Harquahala under this Alternative

2.5.2.1.1 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

Land tenure decisions determine which lands will be retained and which will be proposed for disposal or acquisition. Land tenure decisions must achieve the goals, standards, and objectives outlined in the land use plan.

No lands have been found to be potentially suitable for disposal under *Alternative D*. If *Alternative D* were chosen, any proposed land disposal, including the disposal of scattered lands outside the planning area, would require a plan amendment.

Lands considered for potential acquisition would include State and private lands (willing seller) within the planning area that are in accordance with the resource management prescriptions in this RMP. Lands considered for acquisition must meet (1) the criteria described in the Lands and Realty discussion of the Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of Chapter 2 and (2) the resource program objectives of *Alternative D.*

Utility and Transportation Corridors

Currently designated corridors (Map 2-62) would meet the demand for intensifying the power grid, provided consistently with the utility regulation of the Arizona Corporation Commission. As stated earlier, the Black Canyon's multi-use corridor would be eliminated from Agua Fria National Monument. (See the Utility and Transportation Corridor discussion in the Lands and Realty section of *Alternative D,* Agua Fria National Monument).

2.5.2.1.2 Rangeland Management

Land Use Allocation

Close grazing allotments to grazing and cancel all current livestock authorizations for the duration of the plan.

Desired Future Condition

Watersheds are in properly functioning conditions, including their upland, riparian, and aquatic components. Soil and plant conditions support infiltration, storage, and release of water that are in balance with climate and landform.

Maintain ecological processes to support healthy biotic populations and communities.

Removal of livestock would result in rapid achievement of the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health (Land Health Standards).

Management Actions

Build fencing around grazed lands to control livestock incursion.

Remove public land range-related improvements that serve no purpose for other resources. Removal would reduce the visual impact of former grazing operations.

Require cadastral surveys to establish the location of the public lands and delineate property boundaries to properly locate boundary fencing and to enforce the closure.

2.5.2.1.3 Mineral Resources Management

The following descriptions of mineral types include information on mining closures.

Management Actions

Leasable Minerals

The following limitations to leasable minerals are shown on Map 2-63.

Close any reconveyed lands to mineral and geothermal leasing by public land order.

Close the following areas to mineral and geothermal leasing:

- Black Mesa ACEC,
- Tule Creek ACEC,
- Baldy Mountain ONA ACEC,
- Sheep Mountain RNA ACEC,
- Vulture Mountains ACEC,
- Belmont-Big Horn Mountains ACEC,
- Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC ,
- Black Butte ONA ACEC, and
- Lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics.

All other lands would be open to mineral and geothermal leasing.

Saleable Minerals (Mineral Materials)

The following limitations to saleable minerals are shown on Map 2-64.

Close any reconveyed lands to mineral material disposal by public land order.

Close the following areas to mineral material disposal:

- Black Mesa ACEC,
- Tule Creek ACEC,
- Baldy Mountain ONA ACEC,
- Sheep Mountain RNA ACEC,
- Vulture Mountains ACEC,
- Belmont-Big Horn Mountains ACEC,
- Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC,
- Black Butte ONA ACEC, and
- Lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics.

All other lands would be open to mineral material disposal.

Locatable Minerals

The following limitations to locatable minerals are shown on Map 2-65.

Withdraw any reconveyed lands from the mining laws by public land order.

Withdraw the following areas from the mining laws:

- Black Mesa ACEC,
- Tule Creek ACEC,
- Baldy Mountain ONA ACEC,
- Sheep Mountain RNA ACEC,
- Vulture Mountains ACEC,
- Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC,
- Black Butte ONA ACEC, and
- Lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics.

Small tract lands would remain withdrawn from the mining laws.

Withdraw from the mining laws all public lands (including subsurface) within incorporated municipal boundaries.

Unless currently segregated or withdrawn, all remaining lands would remain open under the mining laws.

2.5.2.1.4 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

All public lands within the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area would be allocated as limited use areas, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes. The Hassayampa River Canyon, Hells Canyon, Harquahala Mountains, Big Horn Mountains and Hummingbird Spring Wildernesses would remain closed to motorized and mechanized uses.

Desired Future Conditions

Define, designate, implement, and monitor a comprehensive travel management network affording a range of high-quality and diverse motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities. The network would consist of a system of areas, roads, routes and/or trails. The travel management network and associated recreation opportunities would be consistent with other resource management objectives and recreation settings for the area.

Management Actions

No cross-country motorized travel would be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

Administrative Actions

A route evaluation and designation process, similar to one described in Appendix D, will be used to establish a designated public access and route system within the Black Canyon Management Unit to support resource objectives consistent with *Alternative B*.

Develop comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management Plans for the management units and other public lands within the planning area. These plans would implement route designations on the public lands.

2.5.2.2 Management Units

Alternative D would use seven MUs for presenting land use allocations and management actions. These MUs are summarized in the following text. As noted, areas within the MUs that do not receive specific land use allocations would be administered according to the DFC and management actions presented under Management Units and in the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area section of Chapter 2.

The document sections discussing the seven Management Units and maps on which they appear are as follows:

- Black Canyon MU, section 2.5.2.2.1, Map 2-47.
- Castle Hot Springs MU, section 2.5.2.2.2, Map 2-66.
- Hassayampa MU, section 2.5.2.2.3, Map 2-67.
- Harquahala MU, section 2.5.2.2.4, Map 2-68.
- Harcuvar MU, section 2.5.2.2.5, Map 2-51.
- Peeples Valley MU, section 2.5.2.2.6, Map 2-69.
- Upper Agua Fria Basin MU, section 2.5.2.2.7, Map 2-70.

2.5.2.2.1 Black Canyon Management Unit

The Black Canyon MU stretches from the southern end of Table Mesa in the south to Cordes Junction in the north. It is bounded by Agua Fria National Monument and Tonto National Forest to the east, and Prescott National Forest to the west (Map 2-47). The Black Canyon MU contains the following land:

- 68,730 acres of BLM-administered lands,
- 12,600 acres of Arizona State land,
- 6,780 acres of private land, and
- 1,100 acres of county parklands in both Maricopa and Yavapai Counties.

2.5.2.2.1.1 Special Area Designations

Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Black Mesa ACEC (5,540 acres)

Relevance

Diverse types of significant archaeological sites occupied over the past 2,000 years, including

sites that may have been ancestral to the Perry Mesa Tradition that was dominant in Agua Fria National Monument.

Importance

The Running Deer site and other prehistoric and historic sites with important scientific values and relationships to sites in the adjacent national monument.

Management Actions

Install fences or barriers to keep livestock out of the Running Deer site.

Withdraw the ACEC from mineral entry, close to mineral and geothermal leasing, and close to mineral material disposal.

Implement measures to protect cultural sites.

Limit commercial tours and special recreation permits to those conducted for educational purposes in conjunction with site recording or protection projects.

Close all routes that lead directly to significant sites.

Administrative Actions

Complete Class III (intensive) cultural inventories of previously unsurveyed areas and permit BLM-approved scientific studies.

Continue to patrol sites with volunteer help and add this area to the territory regularly monitored by the Civil Air Patrol.

Nomination to National Recreation Trail System

Black Canyon Trail

Desired Future Condition

Evaluate the trail for inclusion into the National Recreation Trail System in order to provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding urban population and in order to promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the Black Canyon corridor. A National Recreation Trail should be established primarily; near urban areas, secondarily, within scenic areas and along historic travel routes of the area.

Management Actions

Evaluate the Black Canyon Trail for inclusion into the National Recreation Trail System, as described in the National Trails System Act of 2002 (P.L.90-543).

Issue a right-of-way agreement for the trail and facilities to preserve their access and long-term character.

Acquire easements, rights-of-way, or both on non-Federal lands where the trail or facilities must cross or be built.

Any future land tenure action will recognize the trail and facilities and will retain a ¼-mile corridor (1/8 mile on each side) along the trail and any ancillary facility, as well as public access to them by easement, right-of-way, deed restriction, or other suitable means.

2.5.2.2.1.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

Alternative D proposes no land tenure adjustments within the Black Canyon MU because no lands have been proposed for disposal or acquisition.

Communication Sites

Only one designated communication site is located within this MU. Retain the Black Canyon City communication site, subject to valid existing rights.

Utility and Transportation Corridors

Extend the Black Canyon multi-use corridor so that the corridor is continuous north and south across BLM's lands within this MU.

2.5.2.2.1.3 Biological Resources

No other biological resource allocations would be made within this MU.

2.5.2.2.1.4 Cultural Resources

Land Use Allocation

Black Canyon Corridor SCRMA

Desired Future Condition

Make available a variety of prehistoric and historic sites for interpretation, educational uses, and public visitation. For further information on public use of cultural resources, see Appendix E.

Management Actions

Implement a combination of some or all of following or other actions at selected sites:

- platforms,
- restrooms,
- picnic tables,
- benches,
- trash receptacles,
- signs along routes and trails to direct visitors to interpreted sites,
- hard-surfaced walking trails,
- interpretive signs and register boxes, and
- brochures and related educational materials or programs.

Stabilize, repair, and maintain sites in good condition.

Authorize commercial and noncommercial group tours, conducted with protective stipulations in accordance with BLM's regulations and, where required, special recreation permits.

Administrative Actions

Select sites for public use by considering the following factors:

- presence of aboveground features of interest to the public and amenable to interpretive development,
- accessibility to communities, travel routes, and recreation trails,
- site condition and feasibility of stabilizing selected areas or features to withstand visitation,
- visitor safety,
- compatibility with other land uses and site values, such as traditional use by Native Americans,
- feasibility of regular inspections by BLM's staff and volunteers, and
- partnership opportunities for interpretive and educational projects.

The BLM's recreation program would help develop sites for public use.

Cooperate with agencies, tribes, and local communities in supporting heritage tourism programs that benefit local economies. Develop historic properties for heritage tourism to contribute to their long-term preservation and productive use.

BLM would continue to work with the Site Steward Program to regularly monitor the condition of sites.

2.5.2.2.1.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

Table Mesa SRMA

Desired Future Condition

Manage for intensive camping, OHV use, equestrian activities, and casual use mining. The SRMA would offer a diverse network of motorized single and two-track routes for general motorized recreation use, commercial use, and organized OHV events.

Emphasize acceptable dust control and compatibility with neighboring communities and landowners.

Emphasize semi-primitive motorized recreation settings. Concentrate users in some areas but emphasize dispersed use.

Develop some facilities but stress preserving the natural environment in recreation planning. Develop the fewest sites needed to accomplish resource management objectives.

Management Actions

Designate vehicle routes within this SRMA for general motorized recreation use, commercial use, and organized OHV events.

Locate and develop a staging/camping area for the following purposes:

- meeting the high recreation demand,
- parking and unloading of OHVs,
- overnight camping,
- event operations,
- informational signing,
- dust abatement, and
- human health and safety.

Limit to 10 acres the area of exposed barren soil.

Prohibit motorized competitive races.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.5.2.2.1.7.

Administrative Actions

Conduct an objective, systematic, and comprehensive site inventory of the SRMA to determine existing site-specific environmental and social impacts of prospecting clubs, OHVs, equestrian activities, and other recreation uses. Assessments would determine site-specific desired conditions and define standards so monitoring plans could be developed to manage camping and other recreation uses.

Land Use Allocation

The remaining lands within the Management Unit would be allocated as an Extensive Recreation Management Area.

2.5.2.2.1.6 Wilderness Characteristics

Land Use Allocation

Within the Black Canyon Management Unit, 14,880 acres would be allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics as shown on Map 2-71.

Desired Future Condition

Manage with an emphasis for non-motorized and primitive recreation experiences, tied to open space and natural landscapes. Retain undeveloped landscapes and the area’s remote character. Preserve the area's outstanding solitude and primitive recreation experiences.

In addition to the DFC and management actions described in the Wilderness Characteristics discussion in the Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of this chapter, the following will also apply.

Management Actions

Close all secondary, tertiary, reclaiming, and single-track vehicle routes and washes to maintain recreation settings and associated landscapes of semi-primitive non-motorized.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.5.2.2.1.7.

Manage the Black Canyon Trail alignment as a non-motorized trail.

Locate and develop non-motorized trails to link with community trail systems.

Withdraw from mineral location.

Prohibit mineral material disposals and vegetation sales.

Administrative Actions

Conduct a detailed baseline inventory of disturbances. Determine detailed and site-specific standards using this baseline to maintain suitable levels of recreation disturbance to achieve the desired future settings.

2.5.2.2.1.7 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative D* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-59.

Within the Black Canyon Management Unit, allocate:

- Table Mesa SRMA to VRM Class III objectives.
- Lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics to VRM Class I objectives.
- Utility corridors would be allocated to VRM Class III or IV.
- Throughout the rest of the Management Unit, VRM classes would be allocated as portrayed on Map 2-59.

2.5.2.2.1.8 Mineral Resource Management

Management Actions

Withdraw Black Mesa ACEC from mineral entry, close to mineral and geothermal leasing, and close to mineral material disposal.

Withdraw lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics from mineral entry and close to mineral material disposal.

2.5.2.2.1.9 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

The Black Canyon Management Unit would be allocated as a limited use area, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes (Map 2-16).

Other Resource Allocations with Transportation and Public Access Prescriptions

ACECs are discussed in section 2.5.2.2.1.1.

SCRMAs and cultural resource sites allocated to Public Use are discussed in section 2.5.2.2.1.4.

SRMAs and other recreation allocations are discussed in section 2.5.2.2.1.5.

Allocations to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics are discussed in section 2.5.2.2.1.6.

Management Actions

No cross-country motorized travel would be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

Close all secondary, tertiary, reclaiming, and single-track vehicle routes and washes on 14,880 acres allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics as shown on Map 2-47.

Manage the Black Canyon Trail alignment as a non-motorized trail. Locate and develop non-motorized trails to link with community trail systems.

Establish the Table Mesa SRMA and manage for a diverse network of motorized single and two-track routes for general motorized recreation use, commercial use, and organized OHV events. Designate vehicle routes within this SRMA for general motorized recreation use, commercial use, and organized OHV events.

Close all routes that lead directly to significant sites within the Black Mesa ACEC.

Consider construction of hard-surfaced walking trails at selected cultural sites within the Black Canyon Corridor SCRMA for interpretation, education, and visitation of prehistoric and historic sites.

2.5.2.2.2 Castle Hot Springs Management Unit

The Castle Hot Springs MU is bounded by State Route 74 (the Carefree Highway) to the south, Prescott National Forest to the north, Black Canyon MU to the east, and Hassayampa MU to the west (Map 2-66).

The Castle Hot Springs MU contains the following lands:

- 112,430 acres of BLM-administered lands,
- 53,730 acres of Arizona State land,
- 32,560 acres of private land,
- 22,870 acres of county parklands in both Maricopa and Yavapai Counties (Lake Pleasant Regional Park), and
- 1,100 acres of Bureau of Reclamation lands not in Lake Pleasant Regional Park.

2.5.2.2.2.1 Special Area Designations

Current Special Area Designations within the Management Unit would be managed consistent with management actions described in section 2.7.3.2 in the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area section of this chapter.

Tule Creek ACEC (640 acres)

Relevance

Tule Creek ACEC contains significant historic and cultural values, including the Fort Tule site, a prehistoric hilltop ruin occupied from A.D. 1100 to 1300, and a home-site occupied by miners in the 1920s and 1930s. Tule Creek is a rare Sonoran Desert riparian system dominated by emergent vegetation and occupied by the endangered Gila topminnow.

Importance

The Fort Tule cultural site was probably used as a significant connection in a regional communication system based on signaling among hilltop sites. Its role in the communication system can offer important information on prehistoric social systems during the era it was used.

Tule Creek and its sensitive biological resources are extremely vulnerable to disturbance and degradation from vehicle use, mining, and livestock grazing. Continued protection of Tule Creek is important to the recovery of the endangered Gila topminnow.

Desired Future Condition

Cultural resources, endangered species habitat, and the integrity of the riparian area are protected from degradation.

Management Actions

Close the entire ACEC to motor vehicles.

Withdraw the ACEC from mineral entry, close to mineral and geothermal leasing, and to close mineral material disposal.

Administrative Decision

Continue to patrol archaeological sites and, where needed, implement measures to protect sites.

Baldy Mountain ONA ACEC (9,080 acres)

Relevance

Highly scenic natural Sonoran Desert landscapes, primitive recreation and solitude opportunities, desert washes without motorized use.

Occupied desert tortoise habitat.

Burro HMA.

Importance

A quiet and natural landscape with little evidence of human disturbance. Scarce but accessible backcountry primitive recreation experiences for Phoenix and Peoria residents.

A portion of the area is within the city limits of the City of Peoria, a rapidly growing urban area.

Maintains wildlife and burro habitat and open space in a rapidly expanding, urban environment.

Desired Future Condition

Semi-primitive non-motorized recreation setting throughout the entire area.

A diversity of non-motorized trail-based opportunities in a natural setting.

Broad expanses of natural appearing Sonoran Desert landscapes that continue to contribute to the open space, primitive recreation, and solitude opportunities near the urban centers of the Greater Phoenix metropolitan area.

Management Actions

Close all secondary, tertiary, primitive, single-track, washes, and reclaiming vehicle routes.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.5.2.2.2.6.

Designate and build non-motorized trails to link with other non-motorized trails in the area.

Build non-motorized trails with up to three trailheads, offering loop hikes, connection to other trails.

Withdraw the ACEC from mineral entry, close to mineral and geothermal leasing, and close to mineral material disposal.

Prohibit establishing new rights-of-way.

Prohibit vegetation sales.

Sheep Mountain RNA ACEC (4,270 acres)

Relevance

Open space and biological resources, including desert tortoise habitat and potential desert bighorn sheep habitat.

Importance

Highly scenic area with high-quality wildlife habitat, undisturbed by vehicle routes and human activities.

Desired Future Condition

Maintain semi-primitive non-motorized recreation setting.

Maintain the scenic natural landscape in current form.

Maintain the high quality and unfragmented wildlife habitat.

Management Actions

Close all reclaimed vehicle routes except those needed to facilitate public access. Designate routes needed for access through a structured evaluation process, such as shown in Appendix D.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.5.2.2.2.6.

Withdraw the whole ACEC from mineral entry, close to mineral and geothermal leasing, and close to mineral material disposal.

Prohibit vegetation sales.

Prohibit building of new fences and vehicle routes.

Build no new recreation sites.

Since *Alternative D* proposes cessation of grazing, remove all fences except those needed to keep livestock from wandering in from adjoining grazed lands.

2.5.2.2.2.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

Alternative D proposes no land tenure adjustment decisions for the Castle Hot Springs MU since no lands have been proposed for disposal or acquisition.

Communication Sites

No designated communication sites would be located within this MU.

2.5.2.2.2.3 Biological Resources

No other biological resource allocations would be made within the Castle Hot Springs MU.

2.5.2.2.2.4 Cultural Resources

No cultural resources would be allocated to public use within this MU.

2.5.2.2.2.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

Castle Hot Springs Regional Special Recreation Management Area

Desired Future Condition

Manage Castle Hot Springs MU outside of the Hieroglyphic Mountains SRMA (described below) as a regional special recreation management area, supported by local and regional communities and managed by BLM in partnership with communities and local governments. These communities and governments have a vested interest in open space, outdoor-based recreation opportunities, and local and regional air quality.

Management emphasis stresses meeting a wide range of regional recreation needs while doing the following:

- maintaining the quality of life for local communities,
- preserving open space and natural landscapes, and
- ensuring resource conservation.

The area would have an array of recreation settings (rural, roaded-natural, semi-primitive motorized, and semi-primitive non-motorized) and the following opportunities:

- intense motorized activity,
- permitted recreation events,
- developed facilities,
- highly dispersed motorized recreation,
- remote semi-primitive and wilderness, and
- non-motorized recreation.

Over a span of 15 to 20 years, as the adjacent City of Peoria, the Maughn properties, the

Quintero property, and the Lake Pleasant area are commercially and residentially developed and built out, phase out, mitigate, or eliminate conflicting motorized use in these areas.

Areas subject to phased-out motorized vehicle use would be located within a triangle defined by Castle Hot Springs/Lake Pleasant Road, Morristown Road, and State Route Highway 74. (This area essentially consists of the Hieroglyphic Mountain SRMA and the Baldy Mountain ONA). The Baldy Mountain area would become non-motorized immediately. Motorized use in the public land areas south and east of Quintero would be reduced or phased out in 1 to 15 years. The area west of the Hells Canyon Wilderness and east of the Maughn properties (essentially the Hieroglyphic Mountains SRMA proposal) would become mainly a non-motorized use area in 10 to 20 years. Open other parts of the area to dispersed motorized and non-motorized activities, but intensively manage such uses with a significant BLM ground presence in signing, facilities, law enforcement, and staffing.

Management Actions

Locate and develop facilities, staging areas, trails, signage, trailheads, and other sites, where needed, for resource protection or for maintaining recreation opportunities. Develop up to three designated staging and camping areas to meet high recreation demand, and provide for the following:

- parking,
- OHV unloading,
- overnight camping,
- event operations,
- informational signing,
- dust abatement, and
- human health and safety.

Limit to 100 acres the area of exposed barren soil.

Designate vehicle routes through a structured evaluation process such as in Appendix D within 5 years of the signing of this plan. Use a structured evaluation process to redesignate routes, as suitable, as conditions change because of:

- increased use,
- expanding wildland-urban interface (WUI),
- dust standard compliance, and
- other factors that affect vehicle routes.

Most motorized use in the Baldy Mountain ONA ACEC, the Hieroglyphic Mountains SRMA, and the BLM's lands west, east, and south of Quintero would likely be phased out, mitigated, or eliminated within 1 to 20 years. Focus mitigation to reduce vehicular sources of noise and dust from BLM's lands affecting adjoining developing private lands.

Emphasize a semi-primitive non-motorized management setting for Baldly Mountain ONA ACEC immediately upon plan approval.

Implement a phase-in of OHV closures in response to citizens' requests, conflicts with residents and communities, and the need to meet air quality and dust compliance standards.

Close areas to motorized use when needed to comply with county and City of Peoria land management and recreation use laws and ordinances for these areas.

Designated vehicle routes within the regional recreation management area would be available for up to four permitted commercial and competitive OHV events monthly. Such uses would eventually be phased out in areas adjoining the Quintero and Maughn properties, and other commercial or residential areas as they are developed.

Work closely with law enforcement authorities with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Yavapai County, Maricopa County, City of Peoria, and other agencies with jurisdiction to enhance visitor safety; improve resource protection; or ensure BLM's compliance with county, State, or Federal environmental laws.

Designate and build up to 100 miles of non-motorized trail.

Designate 100 to 200 miles of motorized use routes (single-track, ATV, and four-wheel drive) with one-way trips, destination trips, loops, and tours within the MU.

Manage recreational target shooting consistent with Recreational Target Shooting in the Recreation discussion of the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area section of this Chapter.

Site, plan, and develop multi-use trails and foot, bike, and horse trails linking Wickenburg and Lake Pleasant Regional Park, with other links to Peoria and Phoenix trail systems and the Black Canyon Trail.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.5.2.2.2.6.

Administrative Actions

Designate Castle Hot Springs MU as a regional recreation management area. If found suitable, recommend this area for inclusion into a BLM-administered system of national recreation areas or as a national conservation area.

Charter a citizen, Government, and organization-based working group to guide the area's management, including community groups, the City of Peoria, Maricopa and Yavapai Counties, and other interested parties.

Land Use Allocation

Hieroglyphic Mountains SRMA

Desired Future Condition

Manage the Hieroglyphic Mountains SRMA mainly for recreation settings of roaded-natural and semi-primitive motorized, shifting towards progressively more semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized over a 10-20 year period.

Management Actions

Substantially phase out, mitigate, or eliminate motorized use in the Hieroglyphic Mountains SRMA (the area west of the Hells Canyon Wilderness and east of the Maughn properties) over a period of 10 to 20 years. The focus of mitigation is to reduce vehicular sources of noise and dust from BLM's lands affecting adjoining developing private lands.

Phase in the OHV closures in response to citizens' requests, conflicts with residents and communities, and the need to meet air quality standards.

Close areas to motorized use when needed to comply with county and City of Peoria land management, and recreation use laws and ordinances for these areas.

Work closely with law enforcement authorities, with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Yavapai County, Maricopa County, City of Peoria, and other agencies with jurisdiction to:

- enhance visitor safety,
- improve resource protection, and
- ensure BLM’s compliance with county, State, or Federal environmental laws.

Prohibit motorized competitive races.

Designate and develop a staging/camping area to meet the high recreation demand, providing for the following:

- parking and unloading OHVs,
- overnight camping,
- event operations,
- informational signing,
- dust abatement, and
- human health and safety.

Limit to 10 acres the areas of exposed barren soil.

As motorized use is phased out, redesign the staging area for non-motorized users. The area

could be redesigned as a trailhead for hikers and equestrian users, with a place to park vehicles and unload horses.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.5.2.2.2.6.

2.5.2.2.2.6 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative D* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-59.

Within the Castle Hot springs Management Unit, allocate:

- Baldy Mountain ONA ACEC and Sheep Mountain RNA ACEC to VRM Class I objectives.
- Hieroglyphics SRMA to VRM Class III objectives.
- Throughout the rest of the Management Unit, VRM classes would be allocated as shown on Map 2-59.

2.5.2.2.2.7 Mineral Resource Management

Management Actions

Withdraw Tule Creek ACEC from mineral entry, close to mineral and geothermal leasing, and close to mineral material disposal.

Withdraw Baldy Mountain ONA ACEC and Sheep Mountain RNA ACEC from mineral entry, close to mineral and geothermal leasing, and close to mineral material disposal.

2.5.2.2.2.8 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

The Castle Hot Springs Management Unit would be allocated as a limited use area, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes (Map 2-16).

Other Resource Allocations with Transportation and Public Access Prescriptions

ACECs are discussed in section 2.5.2.2.2.1.

SRMAs and other recreation allocations are discussed in section 2.5.2.2.2.5.

Management Actions

No cross-country motorized travel would be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

Close the entire Tule Creek ACEC to motor vehicles.

Close all secondary, tertiary, primitive, single-track, washes, and reclaiming vehicle routes within the Baldy Mountain ONA/ACEC (9,080 acres), undisturbed by vehicle routes and human activities.

Prohibit building of new vehicle routes within the Sheep Mountain RNA ACEC. Close all reclaimed vehicle routes except those needed to facilitate administrative or compatible public access within the RNA.

The Castle Hot Springs Regional Special Recreation Management Area would include up to 100 miles of non-motorized trail.
Designate 100 to 200 miles of motorized use routes (single-track, ATV, and four-wheel drive) with one-way trips, destination trips, loops, and tours within the MU.

Substantially phase out, mitigate, or eliminate motorized use in the Hieroglyphic Mountains SRMA (the area west of the Hells Canyon Wilderness and east of the Maughn properties) over a period of 10 to 20 years. Phase in the OHV closures in response to citizen requests, conflicts with residents and

communities, and the need to meet air quality standards. Close areas to motorized use when needed to comply with county and City of Peoria land management and dust ordinances for these areas.

2.5.2.2.3 Hassayampa Management Unit

The Hassayampa MU is located with the City of Wickenburg at its center. It is bounded on the east by Prescott National Forest and the Castle Hot Springs MU and on the west by the Harquahala MU. Its southern edge is south of the Vulture Mountains, and it extends north past Yarnell (Map 2-67).

The Hassayampa MU contains the following lands:

- 181,910 acres of BLM-administered lands,
- 130,580 acres of Arizona State land,
- 50,610 acres of private land, and
- 460 acres of county-administered lands in both Maricopa and Yavapai Counties.

2.5.2.2.3.1 Special Area Designations

Current Special Area Designations within the Management Unit would be managed consistent with management actions described in section 2.7.3.2 in the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area section of this chapter.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Vulture Mountains ACEC (6,120 acres)

Relevance

The cliffs along the crest of Vulture and Caballeros Peaks are significant habitat features used by many species of raptors. They are also a pristine, scenic landmark. They are essential to maintaining the current biological diversity of the surrounding area. Large concentrations of nesting hawks and falcons use these spectacular cliff faces.

Importance

The value of the cliffs for nesting raptors is significant for a large area. These cliffs are virtually the only suitable nesting cliffs for many miles. Nesting raptors are sensitive to construction-related human activities. If the cliffs and surrounding area are not protected from these activities, cliff-nesting raptors would disappear from much of the area.

Desired Future Condition

Maintain the raptor nesting habitat of the cliffs and surrounding foraging habitat.

Management Actions

The ACEC boundary would consist of a 1-mile buffer of significant cliffs.

Prohibit the building of new vehicle routes.

Withdraw the ACEC from mineral entry, close it to mineral and geothermal leasing, and close to mineral material disposal.

Prohibit the building of new recreation sites.

Prohibit rock climbing in the ACEC.

Close, limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes that conflict with wildlife values, in particular those that affect successful raptor nesting, to meet the DFCs.

Acquire non-Federal lands within the ACEC as available.

2.5.2.2.3.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

No lands are identified for disposal within the Hassayampa MU.

Communication Sites

No designated communication sites are proposed for this MU.

2.5.2.2.3.3 Biological Resources

No other biological resource allocations would be made within this MU.

2.5.2.2.3.4 Cultural Resources

No cultural resources would be allocated to public use within this MU.

2.5.2.2.3.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use allocation

Stanton SRMA

Desired Future Condition

Provide diverse recreation experiences while improving unacceptable environmental impacts from the following recreation:

- excessive and unregulated camping,
- activities of prospecting clubs, and
- motorized and other recreation uses.

Maintain roaded-natural and semi-primitive motorized recreation opportunities and settings.

Management Actions

Locate and develop trailheads, staging and camping areas, and other facilities.

Designate a diverse network of motorized vehicle routes and allow a range of OHV experiences and challenges.

Install informational, educational, and interpretive kiosks and trail signs, where suitable, for optimum user information and education.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.5.2.2.3.7.

Administrative Actions

Determine specific areas where comprehensive site assessments would be initiated to do the following:

- determine existing physical and social impacts of recreation activities,
- define desired conditions and standards, and
- establish monitoring plans to manage camping and other recreation uses.

Land Use Allocation

Yarnell SRMA

Desired Future Condition

This site is one of the most valued in Arizona for successful launching of long-distance, non-powered flights. Maintain long-term public access to the Yarnell hang gliding launching area. In addition, maintain the landing areas and approaches to landing areas as free of flight hazards as possible (Map 2-32).

Management Actions

Retain in public ownership sections 22, 23, and 27 and all landing zones below Yarnell Hill.

Acquire legal public access to the Yarnell hang gliding launching area through easements, rights-of-way, or land acquisition.

Acquire the Arizona State Trust Land parcel southwest of Yarnell containing Fool's Gulch (Section 22) through purchase, legislation, or exchange.

Prohibit new overhead powerlines, phone lines, or communication facilities within one mile of identified launching and landing zones.

Land Use Allocation

San Domingo SRMA

Desired Future Condition

Manage a Sonoran Desert wash and upland environment suitable for an array of motorized and non-motorized uses. Emphasize semi-primitive motorized and some roaded-natural settings in recreation management.

Provide opportunities for the following while protecting the natural and cultural resources in the area:

- intensive camping,
- OHV activities,
- equestrian use,
- recreation activities of prospecting clubs,
- event operations, and
- motorized single and two-track routes for general motorized recreation use.

Management Actions

Locate and develop trailheads, staging and camping areas, and other facilities as needed for recreation activities. Limit to 10 acres the areas of exposed barren soil.

Prohibit motorized competitive races in the SRMA.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.5.2.2.3.7.

Administrative Actions

Determine specific areas where comprehensive site assessments would be initiated to do the following:

- determine existing physical and social impacts of recreation activities,
- define desired conditions and standards,
- establish monitoring plans to manage camping and other recreation uses.

Land Use Allocation

The remaining lands within the Management Unit would be allocated as an Extensive Recreation Management Area.

2.5.2.2.3.6 Wilderness Characteristics

Land Use Allocation

Within the Hassayampa Management Unit, 13,200 acres would be allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics as shown on Map 2-71.

Desired Future Condition

Manage for open space and generally natural landscapes with primitive and semi-primitive non-motorized recreation settings.

Increase availability of non-motorized recreation opportunities.

Manage to complement the region's recreation opportunities.

In addition to the DFC described above, DFC and management actions described in the Wilderness Characteristics discussion under the Management Common to All Action Alternatives section of Chapter 2 also apply.

Management Actions

Close tertiary, primitive, reclaiming, single-track vehicle routes, and washes to motorized vehicles.

Withdraw from mineral entry, close to mineral and geothermal leasing, and close to mineral material disposal.

Allow vehicle-based camping in designated areas.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.5.2.2.3.7.

Prohibit vegetation sales.

2.5.2.2.3.7 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative D* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-59.

Within the Hassayampa Management Unit, allocate:

- Lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics to VRM Class I objectives.
- Stanton and San Domingo SRMAs to VRM Class III objectives.
- Utility corridors would be allocated to VRM Class III or IV.
- The rest of the Management Unit would be allocated to VRM classes as shown on Map 2-59.

2.5.2.2.3.8 Mineral Resource Management

Management Actions

Withdraw the Vulture Mountains ACEC and lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics from mineral entry, close to mineral and geothermal leasing, and close to mineral material disposal.

2.5.2.2.3.9 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

The Hassayampa Management Unit would be allocated as a limited use area, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes (Map 2-16).

Other Resource Allocations with Transportation and Public Access Prescriptions

ACECs are discussed in section 2.5.2.2.3.1.

SRMAs and other recreation allocations are discussed in section 2.5.2.2.3.5.

Allocations to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics are discussed in section 2.5.2.2.3.6.

Management Actions

No cross-country motorized travel would be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

Establish the Stanton SRMA and designate a diverse network of motorized vehicle routes and allow a range of OHV experiences and challenges.

Establish the San Domingo SRMA and maintain a Sonoran Desert wash and upland environment suitable for an array of motorized and non-motorized uses.

Prohibit the building of new vehicle routes and close limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes within the Vulture Mountains ACEC (6,120 acres) that conflict with wildlife values, in particular those affecting successful raptor nesting, to meet the DFCs.

Close tertiary, primitive, reclaiming, single-track vehicle routes, and washes to motorized vehicles on 13,200 acres allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics as shown on Map 2-67.

2.5.2.2.4 Harquahala Management Unit

Alternatives C, D, and *E*, would slightly expand the Harquahala MU. The MU would still be bounded on the east by the Hassayampa MU and extend west to the Phoenix Field Office

boundary, near the town of Wenden. The MU's southern boundary would include the private and State land south to Interstate 10. The northern boundary would still follow the BLM's property line south of State Route 60, which goes west of Wickenburg, through Aguila and Wenden (Map 2-68).

The Harquahala MU would include the following land:

- 420,730 acres of BLM-administered lands,
- 48,410 acres of Arizona State land, and
- 29,616 acres of private land.

2.5.2.2.4.1 Special Area Designations

Current Special Area Designations within the Management Unit would be managed consistent with Management Actions described in section 2.7.3.2 in the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area section of this chapter.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Belmont-Big Horn Mountains ACEC (77,730 acres)

Relevance

Biological resources

Importance

Important habitat for desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep.

Desired Future Condition

The unfragmented wildlife habitat provides adequate forage, cover, and access to water for healthy wildlife populations.

Management Actions

Prohibit mineral leasing and mineral material sales.

Prohibit the building of new vehicle routes and fences.

Acquire all available State and private lands from willing sellers.

Close, limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining wildlife habitat values to ensure achieving DFC.

Prohibit the building of new recreation sites.

Since *Alternative D* proposes cessation of livestock grazing, remove all livestock control fences except those needed to keep livestock from wandering onto public lands from adjoining grazed properties.

Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC (74,940 acres)

Relevance

The area constitutes a rare, intact, mountaintop vegetation community surrounded by low desert. The mountains contain a biologically diverse system, in stark contrast to the surrounding landscape, and support a diverse sky island ecosystem, with many species not found in the surrounding Sonoran Desert. The mountains are a natural area with few noticeable human intrusions in a primitive landscape setting.

Importance

The ONA encloses and preserves a unique assemblage of biological resources, conserves significant cultural and historic sites, and protects a distinctive vegetation community. The biological richness of the Harquahala Mountains is unique within southwest Arizona. The Harquahala Mountains and surrounding bajadas provide important wildlife habitat to a diverse array of wildlife species. The area is an ecoregional conservation site with important biodiversity values.

The ONA contains the Harquahala Mountain Observatory National Register of Historic Places District. Besides the observatory itself, the historic Harquahala Peak Pack Trail, Ellison's Camp, and other sites are also components of the historic district. The area also includes many well-preserved prehistoric sites along with historic ranching and mining sites. Some archaeological sites may be related to the use of the mountain range by a regional group of the Western Yavapai tribe.

The ONA will safeguard important and unfragmented wildlife habitat.

Desired Future Condition

Manage the area to emphasize protecting the sensitive resources presented in the statements of relevance and importance.

Achieve long-term conservation of scenic and cultural values. Preserve outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude, including high-quality hiking, backpacking, hunting, wildlife observation, and cultural study prospects.

Manage the ONA to preserve outstanding wilderness values. Permit vehicle access on designated routes only. Manage these routes to achieve semi-primitive motorized recreation settings. Prohibit vehicles from going cross-country off designated routes, and manage the area beyond 1/2 mile from vehicle routes to achieve semi-primitive non-motorized and primitive recreation settings.

Emphasize the following:

- increasing primitive recreation opportunities,
- practicing backcountry skills,
- attaining isolation from other users, and
- maintaining remoteness.

Manage the ONA to restore and maintain the plant diversity and richness of the chaparral, riparian/wetland, and Sonoran Desert scrub vegetation communities. Conserving the vegetation communities and managing for healthy wildlife populations, are a priority in managing the ONA. Manage the area to achieve and maintain unfragmented wildlife habitat, which provides adequate forage, cover, and access to water for healthy wildlife populations.

Manage selected prehistoric and historic sites in the ONA for interpretive development, educational uses, and public visitation. For further information on public use of cultural resources, see Appendix E.

Management Actions

Conduct a route designation process, using a structured evaluation such as the one in Appendix D.

Close, limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining wildlife habitat or cultural values to ensure achieving the DFC.

Close any routes that degrade natural, scenic, wildlife, primitive recreation opportunities, or cultural sites.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.5.2.2.4.7.

Withdraw the entire ACEC from mineral entry, close to mineral and geothermal leasing, and close to mineral material disposal.

Allow primitive camping in designated areas only and establish standards to reduce evidence of human activity.

Prohibit building of new vehicle routes and fences.

Protect spring sources by prohibiting surface disturbance at them.

Acquire all available State and private lands from willing sellers.

Prohibit building of new recreation sites that conflict with bighorn sheep management, habitat, or movement.

Since *Alternative D* proposes cessation of grazing, remove all livestock control fences except those needed to keep livestock from wandering onto public lands from adjoining grazed properties.

Administrative Actions

Implement actions to find, monitor, and protect important cultural resources. Maintain the condition of the Harquahala Observatory historical site and its interpretive facilities. Undertake an inventory of cultural resources for the following purposes:

- to find and evaluate sites,
- to determine proper site uses, and
- to develop and implement protective measures for cultural resources within the ACEC.

Black Butte ONA ACEC (14,480 acres)

Relevance

The area contains the Vulture obsidian source used to make stone tools during prehistoric times.

The cliffs at the crest of Black Butte are significant habitat features used by many raptor species. The cliffs are also a pristine, scenic landmark. They are essential to maintaining the current biological diversity of the surrounding area.

Importance

Archaeologists consider the Vulture obsidian source to be one of the major sources of a valuable trade commodity in prehistoric Arizona. Obsidian (volcanic glass) was used widely for producing stone tools. Nodules of Vulture obsidian have a distinctive chemical composition that allows archaeologists to map changes in its distribution, use, and trade by prehistoric peoples. Vulture obsidian has been traced to prehistoric sites within at least a 100-mile radius of Black Butte.

The value of the cliffs for nesting birds of prey is significant for a large area. Nesting raptors are sensitive to construction-related human activities. If these cliffs are not protected from these activities, cliff-nesting raptors would disappear from much of the surrounding area.

Desired Future Condition

Manage the ACEC to emphasize protecting the sensitive resources presented in the statements of relevance and importance.

Maintain current natural conditions and open space. Shift the management emphasis to management for wilderness character. Manage the area surrounding Black Butte and Jackrabbit Wash for primitive values. Preserve good non-motorized recreation opportunities and settings. Conserve scenic volcanic landscapes. Provide outstanding solitude opportunities.

Retain Black Butte's cultural significance as an important source and location of material for prehistoric tool production. Sustain important raptor nesting habitat in the central Black Butte cliffs area. Restore, enhance, and maintain wildlife and plant diversity and species richness of this Sonoran Desert vegetation community. Conserving the vegetation communities and managing for healthy wildlife populations are priorities in managing the ONA.

Management Actions

Management preserves and enhances the semi-primitive non-motorized setting.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.5.2.2.4.7.

Prohibit vegetation sales.

Withdraw the entire ACEC from mineral entry, close to mineral and geothermal leasing and close to mineral material disposal.

Prohibit the building of new recreation sites.

Prohibit rock climbing in the ACEC.

Close, limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining wildlife habitat or cultural values to ensure achieving DFC.

Preserve the Vulture obsidian source, permit scientific study, and restrict activities that threaten the integrity of the source.

2.5.2.2.4.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

Alternative D proposes no lands for disposal within the Harquahala MU.

Communication Sites

The Harquahala Peak communication site would be the only designated communication site within the Harquahala MU.

2.5.2.2.4.3 Biological Resources

No other biological resource allocations would be made within this MU.

2.5.2.2.4.4 Cultural Resources

Land Use Allocation

Harquahala Mountains SCRMA

Desired Future Condition

A variety of prehistoric and historic sites for interpretation, educational uses, and public visitation are available. For further information on public use of cultural resources, see Appendix E.

Management Actions

A combination of some or all of following actions and others could be implemented at selected sites:

- platforms,
- restrooms,
- picnic tables,
- benches,
- trash receptacles,
- signs along routes and trails to direct visitors to interpreted sites,
- hard-surfaced walking trails,
- interpretive signs and register boxes,
- brochures and related educational materials or programs, and
- actions to stabilize, repair, and maintain sites in good condition.

Authorize commercial and noncommercial group tours, conducted with protective stipulations in accordance with BLM's regulations and, where required, SRPs.

Administrative Actions

Select specific sites for public use by considering the following factors:

- presence of aboveground features of interest to the public and amenable to interpretive development,
- accessibility to communities, travel routes, and recreation trails,
- condition of the site and feasibility of stabilizing selected areas or features to withstand visitation,
- visitor safety,
- compatibility with other land uses and site values, such as traditional use by Native Americans,
- feasibility of regular inspections by BLM's staff and volunteers, and
- partnership opportunities for interpretive and educational projects.

The BLM's recreation program would participate in developing sites for public use.

BLM would cooperate with agencies, tribes, and local communities in supporting heritage tourism programs that benefit local economies. Historic properties for heritage tourism would be developed to contribute to their long-term preservation and productive use.

BLM would continue to work with the Site Steward Program to regularly monitor the condition of sites.

2.5.2.2.4.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

The entire MU would be allocated as an Extensive Recreation Management Area.

2.5.2.2.4.6 Wilderness Characteristics

Land Use Allocation

Within the Harquahala Management Unit, 63,400 acres would be allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics as shown on Map 2-71.

Desired Future Condition

In addition to the DFC described in the Wilderness Characteristics discussion of Management Common to Both Planning Areas section, the following conditions would also be managed for:

- to retain natural landscapes,
- to ensure high-quality primitive recreation experiences,
- to maintain the area's remote character,
- to preserve an array of scenic or special features,
- to attain a semi-primitive non-motorized setting,
- to maintain or enhance unfragmented desert tortoise, bighorn sheep, and other wildlife habitat, and
- to maintain wildlife habitat corridors for genetic migration.

Management Actions

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.4.2.2.4.7.

Withdraw from mineral entry, close to mineral and geothermal leasing, and close to mineral material disposal.

Prohibit vegetation sales.

Permit motorized and mechanized vehicular travel only on designated routes. Use a structured process such as the one in Appendix D to evaluate routes for designation to achieve the DFC and other management objectives.

2.5.2.2.4.7 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative D* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-59.

Within the Harquahala Management Unit, allocate:

- Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC, Black Butte ONA ACEC, and lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics to VRM Class I objectives.
- Utility corridors would be allocated to VRM Class III or IV.
- The rest of the Management Unit would be allocated to VRM classes as shown on Map 2-59.

2.5.2.2.4.8 Mineral Resource Management

Management Actions

Close Belmont-Big Horn Mountains ACEC to mineral and geothermal leasing, and to mineral material sales.

Withdraw from mineral entry, close to mineral and geothermal leasing, and close to mineral material disposal the following areas:

- Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC.
- Black Butte ONA ACEC, and lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics.

2.5.2.2.4.9 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

The Harquahala Management Unit would be allocated as a limited use area, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes (Map 2-16).

Other Resource Allocations with Transportation and Public Access Prescriptions

ACECs are discussed in section 2.5.2.2.4.1.

SCRMAs and cultural resource sites allocated to Public Use are discussed in section 2.5.2.2.4.4.

Allocations to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics are discussed in section 2.5.2.2.4.6.

Management Actions

No cross-country motorized travel would be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

Prohibit the building of new vehicle routes, and close, limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining wildlife habitat values to ensure achieving DFC within the Belmont-Big Horn Mountains ACEC (77,730 acres).

Close any routes that degrade natural, scenic, wildlife, non-motorized primitive recreation opportunities, or cultural sites, and close, limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining wildlife habitat or cultural values to ensure achieving the DFC within the Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC (74,940 acres). Also prohibit building of new vehicle routes and fences within the ONA ACEC.

Close, limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes within the Black Butte ONA ACEC (14,480 acres) conflicting with maintaining wildlife habitat or cultural values to ensure achieving DFC.

Permit motorized and mechanized vehicular travel only on designated routes on 63,400 acres allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics as shown on Map 2-68.

Consider development of hard-surfaced walking trails at selected cultural sites within the Harquahala Mountains SCRMA for interpretation, education, and visitation to prehistoric and historic sites.

2.5.2.2.5 Harcuvar Management Unit

The Harcuvar MU encompasses the eastern most end of the Harcuvar Mountains within the PFO's administrative area. Most of the Harcuvar Mountain range is administered by BLM's Lake Havasu Field Office. The Harcuvar MU is bounded on the west and north by the PFO boundary with the Lake Havasu Field Office, and on the east and south by the boundary between BLM- and non-BLM-administered lands (Map 2-51).

The Harcuvar MU contains the following lands:

- 53,200 acres of BLM-administered lands,
- 6,280 acres of Arizona State land, and
- 3,360 acres of private land.

2.5.2.2.5.1 Special Area Designations

Alternative D proposes no special area designations within the Harcuvar MU.

2.5.2.2.5.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

Alternative D identifies no lands for disposal or acquisition within this MU.

Communication Sites

There would be no designated communication sites within this MU.

2.5.2.2.5.3 Biological Resources

No other biological resource allocations would be made within this MU.

2.5.2.2.5.4 Cultural Resource

No cultural resources would be allocated to public use within this MU.

2.5.2.2.5.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

The entire MU would be allocated as an Extensive Recreation Management Area.

2.5.2.2.5.6 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative D* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-59.

Within the Harcuvar Management Unit:

- The area along the Harcuvar Mountains would be allocated to VRM Class III.
- The rest of the Management Unit would be allocated to VRM Class IV.

2.5.2.2.5.7 Mineral Resource Management

Alternative D proposes no mineral withdrawals or closures for the Harcuvar MU.

2.5.2.2.5.8 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

The Harcuvar Management Unit would be allocated as a limited use area, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes (Map 2-16).

Management Actions

No cross-country motorized travel would be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

2.5.2.2.6 Peeples Valley Management Unit

Peeples Valley MU is located west of the Yarnell area in the Date Creek Mountains (Map 2-69). The MU has only a small proportion of BLM's land but offers some resource management opportunities.

The Peeples Valley MU contains the following land:

- 15,500 acres of BLM-administered lands,

- 207,040 acres of Arizona State land,
- 98,215 acres of private land.

2.5.2.2.6.1 Special Area Designations

Alternative D proposes no special area designations within Peeples Valley MU.

2.5.2.2.6.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

No lands are proposed for disposal within this MU.

Communication Sites

No designated communication sites are proposed for this MU.

2.5.2.2.6.3 Biological Resources

Land Use Allocation

Date Creek Mountains WHA Area

Desired Future Condition

Maintain the wildlife/plant diversity and richness of the Sonoran Desert scrub vegetation community. Unfragmented wildlife habitat provides adequate forage, cover, and access to water for healthy wildlife populations.

Management Actions

Acquire high-quality desert tortoise habitat from willing sellers.

Prohibit the building of new vehicle routes and fences.

Remove all livestock control fences because *Alternative D* proposes cessation of grazing.

Close, limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining riparian and wildlife values to ensure achieving DFC.

Prohibit mineral material disposal and vegetation sales.

Maintenance of wildlife habitat would be given management priority in resolving resource conflicts.

2.5.2.2.6.4 Cultural Resources

No cultural resources would be allocated to public use within this MU.

2.5.2.2.6.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

Skull Valley Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)

Desired Future Condition (DFC)

Retain landscape character while maintaining motorized access to routes in Prescott National Forest.

Management Actions

Transfer management of the SRMA to the adjacent Prescott National Forest.

Land Use Allocation

The remaining lands within the Management Unit would be allocated as an Extensive Recreation Management Area.

2.5.2.2.6.6 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative D* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-59.

Within the Peeples Valley Management Unit, VRM classes would be allocated the same as shown on the referenced map.

2.5.2.2.6.7 Mineral Resource Management

Management Action

Close Date Creek Mountains WHA area to mineral material disposal.

2.5.2.2.6.8 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

The Peeples Valley Management Unit would be allocated as a limited use area, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes (Map 2-16).

Other Resource Allocations with Transportation and Public Access Prescriptions

The Date Creek Mountains WHA is discussed in the Biological Resources section 2.5.2.2.6.3.

SRMAs and other recreation allocations are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.6.5.

Management Actions

No cross-country motorized travel would be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

Prohibit the building of new vehicle routes and close, limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining riparian and wildlife values within the Date Creek Mountains WHA Area, in order to ensure achieving DFC.

Within the Skull Valley SRMA, retain landscape character while maintaining motorized access to routes in Prescott National Forest.

2.5.2.2.7 Upper Agua Fria River Basin Management Unit

The Upper Agua Fria River Basin MU is sandwiched between the Bradshaw Mountains and Verde Ranger Districts of Prescott National Forest. It stretches from Cordes Lakes in the south to the Town of Prescott Valley in the north (Map 2-70).

The Upper Agua Fria River Basin MU contains the following land:

- 21,520 acres of BLM-administered lands,
- 36,990 acres of Arizona State land, and
- 39,290 acres of private land.

2.5.2.2.7.1 Special Area Designations

Nomination to National Recreation Trail System

Black Canyon Trail

Desired Future Condition

Evaluate the trail for inclusion into the National Recreation Trail System in order to provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding urban population and in order to promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the Black Canyon corridor. A National Recreation Trail should be established primarily, near urban areas, secondarily, within scenic areas and along historic travel routes of the area.

Management Actions

Evaluate the Black Canyon Trail for inclusion into the National Recreation Trail System, as described in the National Trails System Act of 2002 (P.L.90-543).

Issue a right-of-way agreement for the trail and facilities to preserve their access and long-term character.

Acquire easements, rights-of-way, or both on non-Federal lands where the trail or facilities must cross or be built.

Any future land tenure action will recognize the trail and facilities and will retain a ¼-mile corridor (1/8 mile on each side) along the trail and any ancillary facility, as well as public access to them by easement, right-of-way, deed restriction, or other suitable means.

2.5.2.2.7.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

There would be no lands proposed for disposal.

Communication Sites

No designated communication sites have been proposed for this MU.

2.5.2.2.7.3 Biological Resources

Land Use Allocation

Upper Agua Fria River Basin Habitat Corridor WHA

Desired Future Condition

Maintain and enhance existing wildlife habitat and ensure unimpeded wildlife movement between BLM-managed Federal lands and adjacent national forest.

Management Actions

Prohibit building of new vehicle routes and fences on the remaining public lands.

Alternative D proposes cessation of grazing, remove all livestock control fences except those needed to keep livestock from wandering onto public lands from adjoining grazed properties.

Close, limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes that conflict with maintenance of riparian and wildlife values to ensure achieving DFC.

Maintenance of wildlife habitat would be given management priority in resolving resource conflicts.

2.5.2.2.7.4 Cultural Resources

No cultural resources would be allocated to public use within this MU.

2.5.2.2.7.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

North Black Canyon Trail SRMA

Desired Future Condition

Complete the Black Canyon Trail from Highway 69 north and east to connect with trails in Prescott National Forest. Design the trail to provide a non-motorized experience along or near the historic sheep driveway. The trail and any ancillary facilities will generally lie along the corridor established by secretarial order in 1969. Determine exact locations of the trail or any ancillary facilities in conjunction with the Yavapai County Trails Committee and other interested citizens.

Evaluate the trail for inclusion into the National Recreation Trail System in order to provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding urban population and in order to promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the Black Canyon corridor. A National Recreation Trail should be established primarily, near urban areas, secondarily, within scenic areas and along historic travel routes of the area.

Management Actions

Issue a right-of-way agreement for the trail and facilities to preserve their access and long-term character.

Acquire easements, rights-of-way, or both on non-Federal lands where the trail or facilities must cross or be built.

Any future land tenure action will recognize the trail and facilities and will retain a ¼-mile corridor (1/8 mile on each side) along the trail and any ancillary facility, as well as public access to them by easement, right-of-way, deed restriction, or other suitable means.

Evaluate the Black Canyon Trail for inclusion into the National Recreation Trail System, as described in the National Trails System Act of 2002 (P.L.90-543).

Administrative Actions

Establish a citizen focus group to help with trail and facility sites, designs, and management.

With citizens' inputs, write a long-term SRMA management plan.

Land Use Allocation

The remaining lands within the Management Unit would be allocated as an Extensive Recreation Management Area

2.5.2.2.7.6 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative D* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-59. The entire Upper Agua Fria River Basin Management Unit would be allocated as VRM Class III.

2.5.2.2.7.7 Mineral Resource Management

Alternative D proposes no mineral withdrawals or closures within this MU.

2.5.2.2.7.8 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

The Upper Agua Fria River Basin Management Unit would be allocated as a limited use area, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes (Map 2-16).

Other Resource Allocations with Transportation and Public Access Prescriptions

WHAs are discussed in the Biological Resources section 2.5.2.2.7.3.

SRMAs and other recreation allocations are discussed in section 2.5.2.2.7.5.

Management Actions

No cross-country motorized travel would be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

Establish the North Black Canyon Trail SRMA. Determine exact locations of the trail or any ancillary facilities in conjunction with the Yavapai County Trails Committee and other interested citizens. Transportation and Public Access related decisions within the SRMA include:

- Issue a right-of-way agreement for the trail and facilities to preserve their access and long-term character.
- Acquire easements, rights-of-way, or both on non-Federal lands where the trail or facilities must cross or be built.
- Evaluate the Black Canyon Trail for inclusion into the National Recreation

Trail System, as described in the National Trails System Act of 2002 (P.L.90-543).

Prohibit building of new vehicle routes on public lands, and close, limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes that conflict with maintenance of riparian and wildlife values within the Upper Agua Fria River Basin Habitat Corridor WHA area, in order to achieve DFC.

2.6 Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)

Alternative E is BLM's preferred RMP Alternative. It is designed to respond to each of the issues and management concerns recognized during the planning process in the most comprehensive manner possible. BLM has determined that the management actions presented under *Alternative E* would provide an optimal balance between authorized resource use and the protection and long-term sustainability of sensitive resources within both of the planning areas. The following discussion, along with the Desired Future Conditions (DFCs), land use allocations, and management actions described in the Management Common to All Action Alternatives section of this chapter, comprise the total proposed *Alternative E.*

2.6.1 Agua Fria National Monument

Introduction

Alternative E for the Agua Fria National Monument RMP is BLM's preferred Alternative because it would protect the resources described in the proclamation (Appendix A), while providing opportunities for public access, education, and appreciation of these values. The following section describes the preferred Alternative for each resource, including DFC and relevant management actions where suitable.

2.6.1.1 Special Area Designations

Back Country Byways

Bloody Basin Road Back Country Byway (Map 2-72)

Desired Future Condition

Provide a vehicle route accessible by high-clearance vehicles where views of the monument and interpretation of monument resources create a better understanding of the resources being protected. Along the central monument travel route create a comprehensive visitor experience that is both sensitive to monument resources and provides a high-quality visitor experience.

Wildlife habitat is unfragmented, and pronghorn movement remains unimpeded by visitation that may result from designation.

Management Actions

Evaluate Bloody Basin Road for designation as a back country byway. If the road qualifies and designation would promote the national monument's objectives, the following prescriptions would be implemented.

Maintain at BLM Level 2 standard, (BLM 9100 Manual) passable by high-clearance vehicles.

Maintain the existing roaded-natural and rural settings ½ mile to either side of the road's centerline.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.6.1.7.

Secure easements and rights-of-way where needed to ensure long-term public access.

Interpret monument features along the route, including the following:

- prehistoric cultural features and
- historic homesteads, settlements, and ranching history, and other natural and cultural features.

Install directional, safety, and interpretive signs to enhance public use, enjoyment, and stewardship of the route.

Mitigate impacts to wildlife movement to ensure achievement of the DFC.

Administrative Actions

Develop a cooperative and collaborative site plan with landowners and other agencies that would be affected by the byway designation.

2.6.1.2 Lands and Realty

Land Use Allocation

Utility and Transportation Corridors

Desired Future Condition

To continue to maintain utility and transportation connectivity along an important north-south route from the greater Phoenix area to suppliers to the north, while protecting the resources described in the National Monument Proclamation (Appendix A).

Management Actions

Narrow the existing utility corridor (designated by the Phoenix RMP [BLM 1988a] in the Black Canyon RCA), so that the the utility corridor's eastern boundary follows the easternmost boundaries of any existing rights-of-way that are within the corridor identified in the Phoenix RMP. This corridor is also modified on the west side, and is further described in the Lands and Realty discussion under the Black Canyon Management Unit section of *Alternative E*.

2.6.1.3 Biological Resources

Land Use Allocations

Pronghorn Fawning Habitat WHA (16,810 acres) Map 2-73.

Pronghorn Movement Corridor WHA (22,520 acres) Map 2-73.

Desired Future Condition

Manage habitat to avoid fragmentation and provide conditions that promote natural movement and fawning behavior.

Restore and maintain habitat of suitable quality and quantity to promote long-term sustainability of a viable pronghorn population in the national monument.

Management Actions

To ensure achievement of DFC, limit or suitably mitigate vehicle routes that:

- cross known pronghorn movement corridors and
- have a type and volume of use that modifies pronghorn behavior in ways that fragment their habitat or adversely affect fawning.

Implement seasonal restrictions or closures when vehicle use degrades habitat values.

Apply prescribed fire and fuels management projects to improve habitat for pronghorn fawning and movement

Fence construction and maintenance will follow guidance provided in BLM's Handbook for Fencing H-1741.

Limit or suitably mitigate new recreation site developments in pronghorn movement corridors to avoid disturbing pronghorn movement.

Close pronghorn fawning areas to Special Recreation Permit activities between April 1 and June 1 annually.

Maintenance of wildlife habitat will be given management priority in resolving resource conflicts.

Additional management guidance is described in the Biological Resources discussion of the Management Common to Both Planning Areas and the Biological Resources discussion of Management Common to Agua Fria National Monument sections of Chapter 2.

Administrative Actions

Conduct site-specific studies to determine pronghorn fawning habitat quality and potential. Base implementation actions on the data acquired.

Following guidance in BLM's Handbook H-1741, construction and modification of fences to meet fence standards will include coordination with livestock operators, interested conservation organizations, and other Federal, State, or local governments as appropriate.

2.6.1.4 Cultural Resources

Land Use Allocations

SCRMAs are shown on Map 2-73.

Desired Future Condition

Cultural resources are being used to enhance scientific and public knowledge and understanding of the monument region during prehistoric and historic periods, while at the same time they are being preserved for future generations as well.

Management Actions

Sites described below, allocated to High and Moderate public use, would be developed consistent with discussion in section 2.7.1.5 Cultural Resources of the Management Common to Agua Fria National Monument. Interpretive development would be focused on the sites listed below, leaving the majority of the SCRMAs undeveloped.

High Use SCRMA (1,570 acres)

- Pueblo la Plata and Fort Silver (Pueblo la Plata complex) north of Bloody Basin Road on Perry Mesa.
- Rollie Site (AZ N:16:231(ASM)) near Sunset Point on Black Mesa.
- Historic Teskey homestead near the Agua Fria River.

Moderate Use SCRMA (8,750 acres)

- Baby Canyon Pueblo and Pueblo Pato on Perry Mesa.
- Badger Springs rock art and the Arrastre Creek site on Black Mesa.
- Prehistoric sites on the south rim of Black Mesa.

Low Use area (60,570 acres BLM)

Manage all remaining areas outside the SCRMAs as areas of low public use that are not available for on-the-ground interpretive development or commercial tours. No sites would be allocated to public use in these areas.

2.6.1.5 Recreation Resources

Alternative E would allocate the entire national monument to a Special Recreation Management Area with three Recreation Management Zones within it. These zones include a Back Country RMZ of 57,200 acres to manage and maintain the natural landscape character (Map 2-74). A Passage RMZ of 1,300 acres would be allocated 100 feet from the centerline of designated routes that pass through or enter into the Back Country

RMZ, to manage vehicle-based visitation. The remainder of the monument would be allocated as a Front Country RMZ of 12,440 acres, where management would focus more on recreation and interpretive opportunities. General descriptions of the Front Country, Back Country, and Passage RMZs, including DFCs common to all Alternatives, appear in the Management Common to Agua Fria National Monument section of Chapter 2 under the discussion of Recreation and Public Access.

Land Use Allocation

Front Country Recreation Management Zone (12,440 acres).

Desired Future Condition

The DFC for the Front Country RMZ is described in section 2.7.2.7 of the Management Common to Agua Fria National Monument section of this chapter. In addition, the Front Country RMZ would also do the following.

- recognize that people are part of the ecosystem,
- allow visitors to responsibly interact with the resources,
- offer people with physical limitations a way to enjoy the monument while still maintaining the integrity of the resources and landscape characteristics, and
- give the public sustainable recreation/tourism opportunities while protecting the integrity of the monument's cultural sites and other resources.
- ***Management Actions***

VRM Allocations to achieve the Desired Future Conditions of this Recreation Management Zone are described in section 2.6.1.7.

Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) and Concessions:

- Require groups of 25 or more to obtain an SRP.
- Prohibit competitive motorized or mechanized races, and consider other competitive events on a case-by-case basis as long as they do not conflict with achievement of all resource DFCs for the location.
- Issue SRPs for vending operations if for a permitted event in the monument or recreation site. Vending for permitted events might be included with the SRP for the permitted event if the permittee is responsible for the vending operations. If not, a separate SRP for vending would be required. Consider vending at recreation sites if the service or goods for sale directly enhance the recreation experience and cannot be adequately provided by the closest local community. BLM would not authorize permanent structures.
- Issue recreation concession leases to enhance visitor use, visitor services, and visitor safety and enjoyment if leases are consistent with resource DFCs and monument objectives. Consider concessions on a case-by-case basis and base determinations on consistency with management objectives and a clearly, demonstrated need.
- Close pronghorn fawning areas to SRP activities between April 1 and June 1 annually.

Dispersed Camping:

- Require a free permit for camping. Camping permits could be limited in number if resource damage occurs that conflicts with achieving resource DFCs or threatens resources protected by proclamation, or if health and safety issues emerge. If damage continues, more limitations might be required, including temporary or permanent area closures, limiting camping to designated sites, or seasonal limitations or closures.
- Allow dispersed camping only in existing disturbed areas or at existing

campsites, accessed by designated routes.
- Prohibit camping within a 200-feet radius (70 adult paces) of developed facilities, such as trails, kiosks, entrance signs, signed archeological sites, parking areas, and riparian and water source areas.
- Make management adjustments that respond to recent research and data results.
- Camping would be prohibited within ¼ mile from water sources "...containing water in such a place that wildlife or domestic stock will be denied access to the only reasonably available water (Arizona Revised Statute 17-308, Unlawful Camping).
- The authorized officer may designate or close camping areas as needed to maintain, protect, or enhance resources.

Developed Campgrounds:

- None.

Campfires:

- Prohibit campfires within 1/4 mile of intensive and moderate public use archaeological sites.
- Prohibit campfires within a 200-feet radius of developed facilities, such as trails, kiosks, entrance signs, parking areas, archaeological sites including petroglyphs (rock art) sites, and riparian and water source areas.
- Allow campfires at designated campsites/areas.
- Limit firewood collection to campfire use only. Allow collection of dead, down, and detached material for campfire firewood. Monitor vegetation use and disturbance and temporarily or permanently suspend such use to prevent resource damage.

Recreational Target Shooting:

- Prohibit recreational target shooting throughout the monument.

Trail Construction for Non-motorized Recreation Use

Discussion of recreation trail development can be found in the Transportation and Public Access section 2.6.1.9.

Badger Springs:

- Enhance the entrance to Badger Springs, which may include rerouting, reclaiming, and recontouring routes.
- Enhance the Badger Springs Wash Trail complex, which might include redesigning, rerouting, reclaiming, and recontouring the parking area, trailhead, and trails.
- At or near the trailhead provide visitor amenities, which may include rest and shade areas, restrooms, equestrian parking and supports, and interpretive and directional signs.
- Close to livestock grazing the area encompassing recreation facilities at the Badger Springs Wash trailhead.
- Consider pronghorn movement and habitat needs in any development in the Badger Springs area.
- Provide for route maintenance to reduce erosion and maintain routes to provide for public safety.

Cordes Lakes

- Fence the Cordes Lakes Area (T. 11 N, R. 3 E., Section 20) near the Agua Fria River to prevent motorized access and provide for safe vehicle parking.
- Provide access points for walk-in and universal access.
- Provide visitor amenities, which may include picnic tables, rest areas, shade facilities, directional signs, and interpretive and visitor information opportunities.

Bloody Basin Road Entrance (just beyond the existing kiosk)

- Reclaim and landscape west entrance on the southeast side for desert vegetation.

Land Use Allocation

Back Country Recreation Management Zone (57,200 acres).

Desired Future Condition

The DFC for the Back Country RMZ is described in section 2.7.2.7 of the Management Common to Agua Fria National Monument section of Chapter 2.

Management Actions

VRM Allocations to achieve the Desired Future Conditions of this Recreation Management Zone are described in section 2.6.1.7.

Maintain river crossings at Kelton Ranch, EZ Ranch, Horseshoe Ranch, and Cross Y Ranch.

SRPs and Concessions:

- Require an SRP for groups of 25 or more.
- Authorize no competitive motorized or mechanized races. Consider other competitive events on a case-by-case basis on how they conform to monument values.
- Issue SRPs for vending operations if for permitted events on the monument or recreation site. Include with the SRP vending for permitted events if the permittee is responsible for the vending operations. If not, require a separate SRP for vending. Consider vending at recreation sites if the service or goods for sale directly enhances the recreation experience and cannot be adequately provided by the closest local community. Prohibit permanent structures.
- Issue recreation concession leases to enhance visitor use, visitor services, and visitor safety and enjoyment, if these leases conform to monument values and objectives. Consider concessions on a case-by-case basis and base determinations on consistency with management objectives and a clearly, demonstrated need.
- Close pronghorn fawning areas to SRP activities between April 1 and June 1 annually.

Dispersed Camping:

- Allow dispersed tent camping with free permits. Camping permits could be limited in number if resource damage occurs that conflicts with achieving resource DFCs or threatens resources protected by proclamation, or if health and safety issues emerge. If damage continues, more limitations might be required, including temporary or permanent area closures, limiting camping to designated sites, or seasonal limitations or closures.
- Prohibit motorized campers/units in the back country.
- Make management adjustments that respond to recent research and data results.
- Camping would be prohibited within ¼ mile from water sources "...containing water in such a place that wildlife or domestic stock will be denied access to the only reasonably available water (Arizona Revised Statute 17-308, Unlawful Camping).
- The authorized officer may designate or close camping areas as needed to maintain, protect, or enhance resources.

Developed Campgrounds:

- None.

Campfires:

- Limit firewood collection to campfire use only. Allow collection of dead, down, and detached material for campfire firewood. Monitor vegetation use and disturbance and temporarily or permanently suspend use to prevent resource damage.
- Prohibit campfires within a 200-feet radius of petroglyphs (rock art), archaeological sites such as pueblos, and riparian and water sources.

Recreational Target Shooting:

- Prohibit recreational target shooting throughout the monument.

Trail Construction for Non-motorized Recreation Use

Discussion of recreation trail development can be found in the Transportation and Public Access section 2.6.1.9.

Land Use Allocation

Passage Recreation Management Zone (1,300 acres)

Desired Future Condition

This Passage RMZ consists of a 200-feet-wide corridor (100 feet on each side of centerline) along all designated vehicle routes passing through the Back Country RMZ. The DFC for the Passage RMZ is described in section 2.7.2.7 of the Management Common to Agua Fria National Monument section of Chapter 2.

Management Actions

VRM Allocations to achieve the Desired Future Conditions of this Recreation Management Zone are described in section 2.6.1.7.

SRP and Concessions:

- Require a SRP for groups of 25 or more.
- Authorize no competitive motorized or mechanized races. Consider other competitive events on a case-by-case basis depending on how they conform to monument values.
- Issue SRPs for vending operations if for a permitted event on the monument or recreation site. Include vending for permitted events with the SRP for the permitted event if the permittee is responsible for the vending operations. If not, require a separate SRP for the vending. Consider vending at recreation sites if the service or goods for sale directly enhance the recreation experience and cannot be adequately provided by the closest local community. Prohibit permanent structures.
- Enter into recreation concession leases to enhance visitor use, visitor services, and visitor safety and enjoyment, if these leases conform to monument values and objectives. Consider concessions on a case-by-case basis and base determinations on consistency with management objectives and a clearly, demonstrated need.
- Close pronghorn fawning areas to SRP activities between April 1 and June 1 annually.

Dispersed Camping:

- Allow dispersed camping with a free permit. Camping permits could be limited in number if resource damage occurs that conflicts with achieving resource DFCs or threatens resources protected by proclamation, or if health and safety issues emerge. If damage continues, more limitations might be required, including temporary or permanent area closures, limiting camping to designated sites, or seasonal limitations or closures.
- Allow dispersed camping only in existing disturbed areas or in existing campsites, accessed by designated routes.

- Prohibit camping within a 200-feet radius (70 adult paces) of developed facilities, such as trails, kiosks, entrance signs, signed archeological sites, parking areas, and riparian and water sources.
- Camping would be prohibited within ¼ mile from water sources "...containing water in such a place that wildlife or domestic stock will be denied access to the only reasonably available water (Arizona Revised Statute 17-308, Unlawful Camping).
- Issue with each free permit, monument-specific Leave No Trace/Tread Lightly information to minimize impacts to resources and prevent pollution to desert water resources.
- Make management adjustments that respond to recent research and data results.
- The authorized officer may designate and close camping areas, as needed, to maintain, protect, or enhance resources.

Developed Campgrounds:

- None.

Campfires:

- Allow campfires in existing disturbed areas.
- Prohibit campfires within 1/4 mile of archaeological sites managed for High or Moderate public use.
- Prohibit campfires within a 200-feet radius of developed facilities, such as trails, kiosks, entrance signs, parking areas, archaeological--including rock art--sites, and riparian and water sources.
- Limit firewood collection to campfire use only. Allow collection of dead, down, and detached material for campfire firewood. Monitor vegetation use and disturbance and temporarily or permanently suspend this use to prevent resource damage.

Recreational Target Shooting:

- Prohibit recreational target shooting throughout the Monument.

Trail Construction for Non-motorized Recreation Use

Discussion of recreation trail development can be found in the Transportation and Public Access section 2.6.1.9.

Administrative Actions

With free permits for camping within the monument issue specific Leave No Trace/Tread Lightly information to minimize impacts to the resources and prevent pollution to desert water resources.

Monitor dispersed campsites and establishes limits of acceptable change. Base site carrying capacities on the limits of acceptable change.

Adopt measures to increase visitor responsibility for campfire etiquette and to reduce visual impacts of proliferating campfire rings.

2.6.1.6 Wilderness Characteristics

Land Use Allocation

Within the national monument, 20,900 acres would be allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics as shown on Map 2-74.

Desired Future Condition

In addition to the DFC and management actions in the Wilderness Characteristics discussion of the Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of this chapter, the following DFC also applies:

Lands within the monument allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics contain outstanding opportunities for solitude and naturalness. Maintain or enhance these characteristics and provide opportunities for unconfined primitive recreation, adventure, and discovery. Important wildlife populations and habitat are also within these lands and they are recognized as an important component of the naturalness and will be actively managed.

Management Actions

Evaluate non-motorized trails between Bull Tank and Baby Canyon, between Badger Springs/Agua Fria Confluence and Pueblo Pato, and in other areas if needed, to enhance resource protection by encouraging or requiring visitors to use designated routes.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.6.1.7.

Authorize no new rights-of-way.

2.6.1.7 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative E* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-75.

Within the Agua Fria National Monument, allocate:

- lands allocated to maintain or to enhance wilderness characteristics (37,560 acres) to Class II objectives,
- remaining Back Country Recreation Management Zone and the Passage RMZ to Class II objectives (20,900 acres),
- the Front Country RMZ to VRM Class III (12,440 acres), and
- utility corridor (which is within the Front Country RMZ) would be allocated to VRM Class III.

Desired Future Condition

Throughout the national monument, regardless of VRM class, the objective is to minimize the visual impacts of authorized activities. As much as possible, keep night skies free of light pollution.

Administrative Actions

Cooperate with surrounding communities and national, State, regional, and local entities to minimize the impacts of lighting.

Include clear nights from light standards in new permits/authorizations and in renewing permits/authorizations within all the viewsheds affecting the monument.

2.6.1.8 Rangeland Management

Land Use Allocations

BLM would continue to administer the current 11 grazing authorizations on 10 allotments as shown on Map 2-5.

Desired Future Condition

Watersheds are in properly functioning condition, including their upland, riparian, and aquatic components. Soil and plant conditions support infiltration, storage, and release of water that are in balance with climate and landform.

Ecological processes are maintained to support healthy biotic populations and communities.

Management Actions

Limit livestock grazing in riparian areas to the winter season (November 1 to March 1).

Inventory and/or monitoring studies will be used to determine if adjustments to permitted use

levels, terms and conditions and management practices are necessary in order to meet and/or make significant progress towards meeting the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and other Land Use Plan Objectives.

Fence construction and maintenance will follow guidance provided in BLM's handbook on Fencing No. 1741-1.

When lands are devoted to a public purpose that precludes livestock grazing, adjust allotment boundaries to allow for that use.

Remove the immediate area surrounding Badger Springs Wash from the Cordes allotment to provide for developing a visitor parking area, information kiosk, campground, and infrastructure.

2.6.1.9 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

The entire monument is allocated as Limited to Designated routes (Map 2-16).

Management Actions

Cross-country motorized travel is prohibited except in the case of an emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

Within Front Country

Trail Construction for Non-motorized Recreation Use:

- Develop trails as needed to protect monument's resources and enhance interpretive opportunities.
- Ensure that all construction is compatible with social and managerial settings.
- Design trails to blend into the environment.
- Build loop, connector, and linear trails, depending on recreation, access, interpretation, education, and resource objectives.
- Build trails to maintain connectivity to recreation opportunities such as equestrian use, hiking, and viewing cultural sites.
- Build trails to link with other connector trails outside the monument.
- Explore opportunities to link networks of trails within the monument to those outside the monument on other BLM's lands, or with the adjacent jurisdictions, where linkages would conform to monument's values and would not impair protecting monument resources.
- Place priority for trail development on archaeological sites developed for interpretive use and visitation.
- Build other trails to enhance visitor access and enjoyment of the monument's resources, including the following: self-guided nature and cultural resource trails; trails to interpretive sites not accessible by vehicle; or longer trails linking multiple sites for day or multiple-day trips.

Route Construction for Motorized Use:

- Relocate segments of routes when needed to reduce resource damage and help protect the monument's resources.
- Allow building of routes for access to public lands around privately owned parcels (inholdings), if needed to meet administrative or public needs. To increase access and provide an interpretive motorized opportunity for ATVs in T. 10 N., R. 3 E., Section 10, build a new route to connect existing routes.
- All construction would be compatible with Desired Future Conditions for the construction area.
- Design construction to blend into the environment.

Off-Highway Vehicle Transportation Access

- All vehicles would be limited to designated routes consistent with the discussion in the Transportation and Public Access section 2.7.2.10.
- Require emergency vehicles, including air support, to use designated routes whenever possible and practical.
- Set speed limits for OHV use to provide for visitor safety and to minimize visitor conflicts.
- Improve access, which may include the following: designing and installing needed improvements at low-water crossings, installing vehicle control guards, and providing for visitor safety on Bloody Basin Road.

Within Back Country

Trail Construction for Non-motorized Recreation Use:

- Build nonintrusive trails to allow visitors to access areas of interest, to enhance recreation experiences, and to protect monument's values. Trail design could vary from built, engineered routes to trails marked only with fiberglass posts without any construction.
- Do not allow trails or trail construction to degrade monument resources.
- Design trails to blend into the environment.
- Keep trails compatible with social and managerial settings and manage them to meet VRM II objectives.

Route Construction for Motorized Use:

- Routes open for administrative use will be maintained as needed to provide for the use.
- Allow emergency trail construction to maintain access for permitted operations and administrative purposes within the Back Country RMZ. No other construction would be allowed unless necessary to meet DFCs.

Off-Highway Vehicles

- Prohibit OHV travel in the Back Country RMZ.
- Permit emergency response vehicles, including aircraft landing, in the Back Country RMZ. If practical, these vehicles should use existing trails or areas void of vegetation and cultural resources.
- Non-emergency administrative use of vehicles may be allowed in the Back Country on missions pre-approved by the BLM's field manager. If practical, these vehicles should use existing routes or areas void of vegetation and cultural resources.

Within Passage

Trail Construction for Non-motorized Recreation Use:

- Same as for Front Country RMZ.

Route Construction for Motorized Use:

- Relocate segments of existing routes to reduce resource damage and to help protect monument's resources.
- All construction would be compatible with Desired Future Conditions for the construction area.
- Design construction to blend into the environment.

Off-Highway Vehicles

- All vehicles would be limited to designated routes consistent with the discussion in the Transportation and Public Access section 2.7.2.10.
- Allow continued vehicular access (both motorized and non-motorized mechanized) along designated vehicle routes. Do not upgrade routes but maintain them for access at current levels, speeds, and types. In some cases, conduct route maintenance to purposely limit vehicular type or

speed. For example, a route may be purposely maintained in a primitive condition to discourage ATVs or four-wheel drive vehicles from traveling at speeds exceeding 25 to 30 miles per hour.
- Ensure that emergency vehicles, including air support, use designated routes whenever possible and practical. When not possible or practical, emergency vehicles should, as much as possible, minimize disturbance of vegetation and the risk to monument resources by using existing openings and disturbed areas.
- Establish speed limits for OHV use to provide for visitor safety and to minimize visitor conflicts.
- Maintain access and provide for visitor safety.

Implementation Actions

Public Access

The designated route network within the national monument would include the following:

- 25 miles of secondary roads, accessible in good weather by two-wheel-drive vehicles,
- 72 miles of tertiary roads, accessible mainly by four-wheel drive or, in some areas, high-clearance, two-wheel drive vehicles, and
- 4 miles of motorized trails, accessible by motorcycles and ATVs.

The designated route network would include closing 70 miles of routes, and building one mile of new route to enhance user enjoyment while protecting monument's resources. Please see Map 2-76. Routes designated in the monument are shown below.

Open Routes 101 miles

Closed Routes 70 miles

New Routes 1 mile

2.6.2 Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area

BLM has developed *Alternative E* as the preferred Alternative for the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area. The land use allocations and management actions under this Alternative would best facilitate responsible use of resources within the planning area, while continuing to protect fragile resources. *Alternative E* proposes six MUs (Map 2-77).

2.6.2.1 Management Applicable to the Entire Bradshaw-Harquahala under this Alternative

The following section presents resource management actions for *Alternative E* that apply throughout the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area (i.e. they are not specific to any MU).

2.6.2.1.1 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

Alternative E proposes 38,755 acres of the lands within the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area as potentially suitable for disposal. Of these, 29,230 acres are potentially available for sale or disposal under any authority, and 9,525 acres would be available only through exchange. The lands include scattered parcels outside the planning area and others as shown in Map 2-78. Criteria limiting which lands might be selected as suitable for disposal are described in Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of this chapter in the discussion under Lands and Realty.

Lands considered for potential acquisition would include State and private lands (willing seller) within the planning area and would be in accordance with resource management

prescriptions in this land use plan. These lands would meet the criteria described under Lands and Realty in the Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of this chapter, as well as program objectives reflected in *Alternative E.*

Utility and Transportation Corridors

New utility corridors within the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area (Map 2-79) would be designated for future expected demands. These designations respond to the demand for the intensifying the power grid and conform to the utility regulations of the Arizona Corporation Commission.

2.6.2.1.2 Rangeland Management

Land Use Allocation

Authorize 93 grazing authorizations within the grazing allotment boundaries shown on Map 2-21.

Desired Future Condition

Watersheds are in properly functioning condition, including their upland, riparian, and aquatic components. Soil and plant conditions support infiltration, storage, and release of water that are in balance with climate and landform.

Ecological processes are maintained to support healthy biotic populations and communities.

Management Actions

Implement grazing management changes as needed to produce riparian areas that are in or are making progress toward proper functioning condition. Base grazing management changes on allotment evaluations, which analyze compliance with the Land Health Standards and the Guidelines for Grazing Administration described in the Rangeland Management discussion of the Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of this chapter. Changes could include, but may not be limited to; seasonal grazing, grazing rotation, or no grazing.

Build livestock control fences and alternative water sources where needed to meet natural resource objectives. Fence construction and maintenance will follow guidance provided in BLM's handbook on Fencing No. 1741-1.

2.6.2.1.3 Mineral Resources Management

Leasable Minerals

Open all lands for mineral and geothermal leasing and exploration except lands with existing segregations or withdrawals. Map 2-80 shows the leasable mineral allocations.

Open lands reconveyed to the Federal Government to mineral and geothermal leasing, and exploration.

Issue lease applications, with needed restrictions, to protect important resources. Base stipulations on interdisciplinary review of individual proposals and environmental analysis.

Saleable Minerals (Mineral Materials)

The following management actions for saleable minerals are shown on Map 2-81.

Except for legislatively withdrawn areas and other withdrawn and segregated areas, open all public lands within the planning area to mineral material disposal, on a case-by-case basis.

Open lands that have been reconveyed to the Federal Government and managed by BLM to mineral material disposal under applicable laws, except on the floodplain of riparian areas.

Locatable Minerals

The following management actions for locatable minerals are shown on Map 2-82.

Withdraw Tule Creek ACEC from mineral entry. All other public lands within the planning area would be open to locatable mineral activities except for legislatively withdrawn areas and other withdrawn and segregated areas.

Lands that have been reconveyed to the Federal Government and managed by BLM would be open to location under the mining laws, except within riparian areas.

2.6.2.1.4 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

All public lands within the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area would be allocated as limited use areas, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes. The Hassayampa River Canyon, Hells Canyon, Harquahala Mountains, Big Horn Mountains and Hummingbird Spring Wildernesses would remain closed to motorized and mechanized uses (Map 2-16).

Desired Future Conditions

Define, designate, implement, and monitor a comprehensive travel management network affording a range of high-quality and diverse motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities. The network would consist of a system of areas, roads, routes and/or trails. The travel management network and associated recreation opportunities would be consistent with other resource management objectives and recreation settings for the area.

Management Actions

No cross-country motorized travel would be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

Administrative Actions

An evaluation process, similar to one described in Appendix D, will be used to establish a designated public access and route system within the Black Canyon Management Unit to support resource objectives consistent with *Alternative B.*

Develop comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management Plans for the management units and other public lands within the planning area. These plans would implement route designations on the public lands.

2.6.2.2 Management Units

The following is the list of list of MUs selected for *Alternative E* and the document sections they are discussed in (Map 2-77):

- Black Canyon MU, section 2.6.2.2.1, Map 2-83.
- Castle Hot Springs MU, section 2.6.2.2.2, Map 2-84.
- Hassayampa MU, section 2.6.2.2.3, Map 2-85.
- Harquahala MU, section 2.6.2.2.4, Map 2-86.
- Harcuvar MU, section 2.6.2.2.5, Map 2-87.
- Upper Agua Fria River Basin MU, section 2.6.2.2.6, Map 2-88.

Each MU represents a geographic region and contains a variety of land use allocations, DFCs, and management actions for the allocations. General DFC and management actions can be found in the Management Units discussion of the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area section of this chapter.

2.6.2.2.1 Black Canyon Management Unit

The Black Canyon MU stretches from the southern end of Table Mesa on the south to Cordes Junction on the north. It is bounded by Agua Fria National Monument and Tonto National Forest on the east and the Prescott National Forest on the west Map 2-83).

The Black Canyon MU contains the following land:

- 68,730 acres of BLM-administered lands,
- 12,600 acres of Arizona State land,
- 6,780 acres of private land, and
- 1,100 acres of county parklands in both Maricopa and Yavapai Counties.

2.6.2.2.1.1 Special Area Designations

Nomination to National Recreation Trail System

Black Canyon Trail

Desired Future Condition

Provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding urban population to promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the Black Canyon corridor. A National Recreation Trail should be established primarily, near urban areas, secondarily, within scenic areas, and along historic travel routes of the area.

Management Actions

Issue a right-of-way for the trail and ancillary trails, and facilities to preserve public access and long-term character.

Acquire easements or rights-of-way on non-Federal lands if the trail or facilities are proposed for any of these lands.

Recognize and accommodate long-term continuation of the trail and facilities in land tenure actions. Retain a 1/4-mile wide corridor (1/8 mile each side of the trail) along the trail and any ancillary facility for a permanent trail location. Ensure public access to the trail and related facilities through easements, rights-of-way, deed restrictions, or other suitable means.

Develop at least eight trailheads and staging or camping areas near communities and vehicle access points to serve the Black Canyon Trail and adjoining public lands for the following purposes:

- parking,
- unloading of OHVs and horses, and
- picnicking.

Development could include the following:

- information signs,
- kiosks,
- picnic tables,
- water,
- toilets,
- loading ramps, and
- soil stabilization for dust abatement.

Limit to 5 acres the area of exposed barren soil for each site. Mark or delineate the perimeters with barriers to prevent expansion. One proposed site identified during planning is the heavily used site near the intersection of County Road 59 (Crown King Road) and Forest Service Road 684 (Castle Creek Road).

Evaluate the Black Canyon Trail for inclusion into the National Recreation Trail System, as described in the National Trails System Act of 2002 (P.L.90-543).

2.6.2.2.1.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

Alternative E proposes no land tenure adjustments for the Black Canyon MU because it proposes no lands for disposal or acquisition.

Communication Sites

The MU has one designated communication site, the Black Canyon City communication site,

which would be retained and subject to valid existing rights.

Utility and Transportation Corridors

Multiple-Purpose Corridors

Alternative E would adjust the western boundary of the Black Canyon corridor 1 mile west of the true center of Interstate 17 and would widen the corridor to 2 miles where it crosses the Black Mesa/Bumble Bee Cultural Resource Priority Areas as shown on Map 2-79. (Note: The Black Canyon corridor includes both the I-17 right-of-way and rights-of-way for other utilities.)

A new corridor southwest of Agua Fria National Monument would be added to extend the Black Canyon utility corridor completely across BLM's land south and west of Black Canyon City.

2.6.2.2.1.3 Biological Resources

No other biological allocations would be made within the Black Canyon MU. Biological resources would be subject to management guidance in Biological Resources from the Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of this chapter and in Biological Resources from the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area section of this chapter.

2.6.2.2.1.4 Cultural Resources

Land Use Allocation

Black Canyon Corridor SCRMA (49,540 acres BLM). Allocate to public use sites that are accessible from the Black Canyon Trail.

Desired Future Condition

Selected prehistoric and historic sites are interpreted for public education and visitation. Interpretive projects are completed in a manner that monitors and protects sites while allowing for public use. For more information on public use of cultural resources, see Appendix E.

Management Actions

Build trails to link these sites to the Black Canyon Trail. Local site types potentially suitable for public use include prehistoric hilltop structures, rock art, mining camps, and features of the historic Black Canyon Sheep Driveway.

Develop historic properties for heritage tourism to contribute to their long-term preservation and productive use.

Implement some or all of the following and other actions at selected sites:

- platforms,
- restrooms,
- picnic tables,
- benches,
- trash receptacles,
- signs along routes and trails to direct visitors to interpreted sites,
- hard-surfaced walking trails,
- interpretive signs and register boxes, and
- brochures and related educational materials or programs.

Stabilize, repair, and maintain sites in good condition, as needed. Regularly monitor the condition of sites.

Authorize commercial and noncommercial group tours if they are conducted with protective stipulations in accordance with BLM's regulations and, where required, SRPs.

Administrative Actions

Select sites for public use by considering the following:

- presence of aboveground features of interest to the public and amenable to interpretive development,

- accessibility to communities, travel routes, and recreation trails,
- site condition and the feasibility of stabilizing areas or features to withstand visitation,
- visitor safety,
- compatibility with other land uses and site values, such as traditional use by Native Americans,
- feasibility of regular inspections by BLM's staff and volunteers, and
- partnership opportunities for interpretive and educational projects.

The BLM's recreation program would participate in developing sites for public use.

BLM would cooperate with agencies, tribes, and local communities in supporting heritage tourism programs that benefit local economies. Historic properties for heritage tourism would be developed to contribute to their long-term preservation and productive use.

BLM would continue to work with the Site Steward Program to regularly monitor the condition of sites.

2.6.2.2.1.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

The entire Management Unit would be allocated to the Black Canyon SRMA (68,730 acres BLM) with the following Recreation Management Zones within it:

- Black Canyon Hiking and Equestrian Trails RMZ.
- Table Mesa RMZ.

Desired Future Condition

Preserve scenic and open space values and provide an array of public opportunities for trail-based recreation within diverse and healthy landscapes.

Provide an assortment of intensively managed, intensively used trail-based motorized and non-motorized recreation uses within the SRMA. Emphasize motorized and non-motorized trail links east and west of I-17, links with Prescott and Tonto National Forests, Lake Pleasant Regional Park, the Castle Hot Springs area, the Great Western Trail, and connections to all communities.

Manage the recreation area to function as an open space gateway into Maricopa County from the north, managed for viewsheds and long-range vistas of valleys, hills, and the Bradshaw Mountains. Connect the Maricopa County Park System with a regional non-motorized trail system between Lake Pleasant Regional Park, the Cave Creek Recreation Area, and the Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area

Facilitate preserving a scenic open space corridor along I-17 between Yavapai and Maricopa Counties, welcoming visitors to Maricopa County and promoting area tourism.

Maintain recreation settings identified through inventory as shown on the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum on Map 3-11, except where otherwise stipulated in prescriptions of other allocations.

Secure more law enforcement and public user group involvement as a high priority to promote environmentally responsible recreation, discourage vandalism, protect the public, and protect the public investment in public lands.

Management Actions

Acquire legal public access to public lands through suitable easements, rights-of-way, or other methods.

Develop a comprehensive trail system centered on the Black Canyon Trail. Identify, analyze, build, and designate new single-use and multi-use, hiking, equestrian, and OHV/vehicle routes for hikers, equestrians, mountain bicycles, ATVs, and four-wheel-drive enthusiasts, and linked to other trail systems and communities.

Routes would include motorized and non-motorized Wickenburg-Lake Pleasant-Black Canyon City trail corridors and direct links with the Great Western Trail.

Specific activities envisioned in this area include trail development for the following:

- differentiated use (separate motorized and non-motorized travel routes),
- single use (e.g. hiking or ATVs only),
- multi use (vehicles, bicycles, hiking, and equestrian use on a single trail), and
- single-track use (e.g. motorcycles or mountain bicycles only).

Locate, analyze, build and designate single or multiple-use, motorized (OHV) special recreation vehicle areas, loops, routes, and management strategies through interdisciplinary plans, with community and user input.

Locate and develop parking, staging areas and trailheads, as suitable, for the following purposes:

- facilitate responsible use,
- ensure resource protection,
- parking, and
- unloading OHVs and horses.

Limit 5 acres per site of exposed barren soil. Mark or delineate the perimeters with barriers to prevent expansion.

Prohibit motorized competitive races in the SRMA.

Minimize visual disturbances to the area's open spaces, vistas, and viewsheds. Co-locate communication towers/facilities on existing powerlines or communication towers, using identified utility corridors whenever possible.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.3.2.2.1.6. Apply visual resource prescriptions for the SRMA or RMZs to all governmental, commercial, and private rights-of-way, easements, and other conveyances.

Pursue legal public access through the Lake Pleasant Regional Park using existing routes to provide access to archaeological and historic sites allocated for public use, or to achieve other resource objectives.

Land Use Allocation

Black Canyon Hiking and Equestrian Trails RMZ (8,325 acres)

Desired Future Condition

Complete the Black Canyon Hiking and Equestrian Trails alignment from State Highway 74 to State Highway 69, with community and citizen participation. The trails will provide high-quality non-motorized recreation experiences for hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers through the Black Canyon corridor.

Incorporate loops, links, and trailheads for both destination and point-to-point travel into the Black Canyon Trail design. Link the communities of Black Canyon, New River, Anthem, and Phoenix, and eventually develop a connecting trail system to include Lake Pleasant Regional Park and Tonto and Prescott National Forests.

Locate, analyze, build, and designate new trail segments as needed to replace those now used by motorized vehicles. Align these new segments as closely as possible along the historic sheep driveway corridor. Determine exact locations of the trail or any ancillary trails and facilities, in conjunction with; Maricopa and Yavapai County trails committees, communities, equestrian and other user groups, and interested citizens. Citizen working groups will help with trail and facility alignments, site designation, design, and management.

Evaluate the trail for inclusion into the National Recreation Trail System in order to provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of

an expanding urban population and in order to promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the Black Canyon corridor. A National Recreation Trail should be established primarily, near urban areas, secondarily, within scenic areas and along historic travel routes of the area.

Management Actions

Issue a right-of-way for the trail and ancillary trails and facilities to preserve public access and long-term character.

Acquire easements or rights-of-way on non-Federal lands if the trail or facilities are proposed for any of these lands.

Recognize and accommodate long-term continuation of the trail and facilities in land tenure actions. Retain a 1/4-mile wide corridor (1/8 mile each side of the trail) along the trail and any ancillary facility for a permanent trail location. Ensure public access to the trail and related facilities through easements, rights-of-way, deed restrictions, or other suitable means.

Develop at least eight trailheads and staging or camping areas near communities; vehicle access points to serve the Black Canyon Trail and adjoining public lands for the following purposes:

- parking,
- unloading of OHVs and horses, and
- picnicking.

Development could include the following:

- information signs,
- kiosks,
- picnic tables,
- loading ramps, and
- soil stabilization for dust abatement.

Limit to 5 acres the area of exposed barren soil for each site. Mark or delineate the perimeters with barriers to prevent expansion. One proposed site identified during planning is the heavily used site near the intersection of County Road 59 (Crown King Road) and Forest Service Road 684 (Castle Creek Road).

Evaluate the Black Canyon Trail for inclusion into the National Recreation Trail System, as described in the National Trails System Act of 2002 (P.L.90-543).

Land Use Allocation

Table Mesa RMZ (11,050 acres BLM)

Desired Future Condition

Manage for intensive motorized single and two-track routes and general motorized recreation.

Acceptable dust control and compatibility with neighboring communities and landowners.

Semi-primitive motorized and roaded-natural settings. Users will occasionally be concentrated in developed sites, but recreation use will generally be dispersed.

Facilities to meet the basic needs of visitors and to enhance resource protection. Clear yet nonintrusive signing in most of the RMZ.

Management Actions

Develop facilities, staging areas, trails, signage, trailheads, and other sites when needed to protect resources, to promote visitor health and safety, or to maintain recreation opportunities.

Develop one staging area along Table Mesa Road for the following purposes:

- meet high motorized and non-motorized recreation demand,
- provide for parking,
- unloading of OHVs and horses,
- overnight camping, and
- large special events.

Development could include the following:

- informational signs,
- kiosks,
- picnic tables,
- loading ramp, and
- soil stabilization for dust abatement.

Limit to 10 acres the area of exposed barren soil for the site. Mark or delineate the perimeter with barriers to prevent expansion.

Develop at least two small day use areas for up to ten vehicles with trailers for the following purposes:

- parking,
- unloading of OHVs and horses, and
- picnicking.

Development could include the following:

- informational signs,
- kiosks,
- picnic tables,
- loading ramps, and
- soil stabilization for dust abatement.

Limit to 2 acres the area of exposed barren soil for each site. Mark or delineate the perimeters with barriers to prevent expansion.

Manage recreational target shooting consistent with the "Recreational Target Shooting" guidelines in the Recreation discussion of the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area section of this Chapter.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.1.7 (Map 2-75).

Administrative Actions

Engage a diverse group of stakeholders in a collective effort to conserve the scenery, open space, and recreation values of the Black Canyon SRMA. Promote citizen involvement and partnerships as an integral component to the SRMA management. Empower community workgroups to carry out stewardship and resource management activities.

Collaborate with the AGFD, Prescott and Tonto National Forests, Maricopa and Yavapai Counties, Lake Pleasant Regional Park, and land managers of other trails to link to trails on BLM's land.

Complete an OHV designation for all existing and proposed motorized (OHV) routes and non-motorized trails on public land within the Black Canyon SRMA within 2 years of plan approval.

Develop and implement collaborative management partnerships with the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department and the communities to share recreation management of the SRMA areas within Maricopa County.

Collaborative efforts would do the following:

- ensure consistent management between partners,
- enhance the recreation experience of visitors and recreation permit holders,
- maintain open space and provide a natural gateway into Maricopa County, and
- facilitate development of the Maricopa County Regional Trails System Plan.

Develop a long-term Black Canyon Hiking and Equestrian Trails master plan within 2 years of plan approval. Define proposed trail alignments, trailheads, linking trails, and other alignments within 1 year of plan approval.

Determine specific areas where comprehensive site assessments would be initiated to do the following:

- determine existing physical and social impacts of recreation activities,
- define desired conditions and standards,
- establish monitoring plans to manage camping and other recreation uses.

2.6.2.2.1.6 Wilderness Characteristics

Land Use Allocation

Within the Black Canyon Management Unit, 13,490 acres would be allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics as shown on Map 2-89.

Desired Future Condition

Maintain and enhance non-motorized and primitive recreation experiences, tied to open space and natural landscapes. The desired recreation setting is semi-primitive non-motorized. Management retains the area's undeveloped natural desert landscapes and scenic remote character and preserves outstanding solitude and primitive recreation experiences. Conserve rock cabins, artifacts, petroglyph sites, prehistoric structures, and riparian areas. Manage the current motorized segment of the Black Canyon Trail, which crosses this allocation, as a semi-primitive motorized corridor. This trail segment is multi-use, open to both motorized and non-motorized users. Recognize that wildlife populations and habitat are important aspects of the naturalness and actively manage them.

Management Actions

Manage for a semi-primitive motorized recreation setting along designated routes and semi-primitive non-motorized recreation setting beyond ½ mile from designated routes.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.1.7.

Develop non-motorized trails when such trails are determined to be needed to protect resources, enhance recreation opportunities, or provide links with other trail systems.

Administrative Actions

Conduct a detailed site-specific inventory to determine the current level of disturbance. From this baseline data, establish standards to maintain proper levels of recreation and landscape disturbance to conserve the DFCs.

2.6.2.2.1.7 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative E* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-75.

Within the Black Canyon Management Unit, allocate:

- Lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics to VRM Class II objectives.
- Black Canyon SRMA to VRM Class II objectives, except
    - Table Mesa RMZ to VRM Class III objectives, and a corridor along Interstate 17 near New River to VRM Class IV
    - Utility corridors would be allocated to VRM Class III or IV.

2.6.2.2.1.8 Mineral Resource Management

Management Actions

Close riparian areas in reconveyed lands to mineral entry, and close riparian areas throughout the MU to mineral material disposal, to preserve riparian values (Map 2-82 and Map 2-81).

2.6.2.2.1.9 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

The Black Canyon Management Unit would be allocated as a limited use area, with

motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes (Map 2-16).

Other Resource Allocations with Transportation and Public Access Prescriptions

SCRMAs and cultural resource sites allocated to Public Use are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.1.4.

SRMAs and other recreation allocations are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.1.5.

Allocations to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.1.6.

Management Actions

No cross-country motorized travel would be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

Develop non-motorized trails when such trails are determined to be necessary to protect resources, enhance recreation opportunities, or provide links with other trail systems within the 13,490 acres allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics as shown on Map 2-83.

Build trails to link the area's cultural sites to the Black Canyon Trail.

Establish the Black Canyon SRMA (68,730 acres BLM) with two Recreation Management Zones: Black Canyon Hiking and Equestrian Trails RMZ and the Table Mesa RMZ. Complete an OHV designation for all existing and proposed motorized (OHV) routes and non-motorized trails on public land, within the Black Canyon SRMA, within 2 years of plan approval.

Establish the Black Canyon Hiking and Equestrian Trails RMZ (8,325 acres). Issue a right-of-way for the trails, ancillary trails, and facilities to preserve public access and long-term character. Acquire easements or rights-of-way on non-Federal lands if the trail or facilities are proposed for any of these lands.

Establish the Table Mesa RMZ (11,050 acres BLM). Manage for intensive motorized single and two-track routes and general motorized recreation.

2.6.2.2.2 Castle Hot Springs Management Unit

Castle Hot Springs MU is bounded by State Route 74 (Carefree Highway) on the south, Prescott National Forest on the north, Black Canyon MU on the east, and Hassayampa MU on the west (Map 2-84). The MU contains the following lands:

- 112,430 acres of BLM-administered lands,
- 53,730 acres of Arizona State land,
- 32,560 acres of private land,
- 22,870 acres of county park lands in both Maricopa and Yavapai Counties (Lake Pleasant Regional Park), and
- 1,100 acres of Bureau of Reclamation lands outside Lake Pleasant Regional Park.

2.6.2.2.2.1 Special Area Designations

Current Special Area Designations within the Management Unit would be managed consistent with Management Actions described in section 2.7.3.2 in the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area section of this chapter.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Tule Creek ACEC (640 acres)

Relevance

The Tule Creek area contains significant historic and cultural values, including the Fort Tule site, a prehistoric hilltop ruin occupied from A.D. 1100 to 1300, and a home site occupied by miners in the 1920s and 1930s. Tule Creek is an example of rare Sonoran Desert riparian system

dominated by emergent vegetation and occupied by the endangered Gila topminnow.

Importance

The Fort Tule cultural site was probably used as a significant connection in a regional communication system based on signaling among hilltop sites. Fort Tule's role in the communication system can offer important information on prehistoric social systems during the era it was used.

Tule Creek and its sensitive biological resources are extremely vulnerable to disturbance and degradation from vehicle, mining, and livestock use. Continued protection of Tule Creek is important to the recovery of the endangered Gila topminnow.

Desired Future Condition

The integrity of the riparian area, endangered species habitat quality, and cultural resources are maintained and protected from degradation.

Management Actions

Close the fenced area to livestock grazing and motor vehicles.

Withdraw the ACEC from mineral entry, and close it to mineral materials disposal and mineral leasing.

Develop an interpretive site for biological and cultural resources.

Continue patrols of archaeological sites with help from Site Steward Volunteers. Where needed, take measures to protect sites such as the following:

- stabilizing structures,
- fencing or closing sensitive sites to public visitation,
- excavating to collect scientific information from threatened sites, and
- taking other actions to be determined by site-specific needs.

Ensure that activities that change the visual landscape conform to the historical setting.

Back Country Byways

Constellation Mine Road/Buckhorn Mine Road Back Country Byway

Desired Future Condition

Provide a vehicle route accessible by high-clearance vehicles through the rugged Sonoran Desert landscape in the Buckhorn and Hieroglyphic Mountains, with the high Bradshaw Mountains as a backdrop. Interpret the diverse resources and cultural history to create a greater understanding of the region's resources and a greater appreciation for the people who live there now and lived there in the past. Along this route create a comprehensive visitor experience that is sensitive to both resources and private lands and provides a high-quality visitor experience. Maintain a semi-primitive motorized recreation setting ½ mile to either side of the road's centerline.

Management Actions

Evaluate Constellation Mine Road/Buckhorn Mine Road for nomination as a back country byway. If the byway is designated, implement the following:

- Maintain the public portions of this road at a BLM Level 2 standard, (BLM 9100 Manual) passable by high-clearance vehicles.
- Maintain the current historical visual character ½ mile to either side of the road's centerline.
- Secure easements and rights-of-way where needed to ensure long-term public access along Constellation Mine Road.
- Interpret and protect the route's historical features, including original and stabilized road masonry structures; mining properties; mining districts; and historic homesteads, settlements, and ranches.

- Install directional, safety, and interpretive signs to enhance public use, enjoyment, and stewardship of the route.
- Establish a friends group to monitor and help interpret the route and present the route and area's natural and human history.

2.6.2.2.2.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

Alternative E proposes no land tenure adjustments for the Castle Hot Springs MU because no lands there have been proposed for disposal or acquisition.

Communication Sites

The Castle Hot Springs MU has no designated communication sites.

Utility and Transportation Corridors

No new utility corridors would be designated within this MU.

All State highway system routes would be designated as transportation corridors, including a new 1-mile-wide corridor along SR 74, 1/2 mile on either side of the highway centerline.

Public access would be acquired from Highway 74 to Castle Hot Springs Road through Morgan City Wash across several Arizona Trust and private land parcels in Township 6 North, Range 1 West, sections 6, 9, 22, and 23; Township 7 North, Range 2 West, sections 2 and 36; and in Township 7 North, Range 1 West, section 31 (Map 2-90).

Select and develop an improved route north of Lake Pleasant to Table Mesa, extending from French Creek Road to Interstate 17, for public safety, administrative, and recreation access. To ensure long-term public access, secure easements or rights-of-way crossing private or State parcels, when identified. This action would secure motorized legal public access from the Castle Hot Springs community to Interstate 17.

2.6.2.2.2.3 Biological Resources

No other allocations would be made for biological resources within Castle Hot Springs MU. Biological resources would be subject to management guidance in Biological Resources in the Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of this chapter and Biological Resources in the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area section of this chapter.

2.6.2.2.2.4 Cultural Resources

Land Use Allocation

Lake Pleasant/Agua Fria SCRMA (27,240 acres BLM)

Desired Future Condition

Selected prehistoric and historic sites are interpreted for public education and visitation. Interpretive projects are completed in a manner that monitors and protects sites while allowing for public use. For further information on public use of cultural resources, see Appendix E.

Management Actions

The following sites north of Lake Pleasant are allocated to public use: Agua Fria Fort and AZ T:4:1 (PC), which are prehistoric hilltop sites, and the historic Humbug hydraulic mining complex.

Select other sites for public use by considering the following:

- presence of aboveground features of interest to the public and amenable to interpretive development,
- accessibility to communities, travel routes, and recreation trails,

- site condition and the feasibility of stabilizing selected areas or features to withstand visitation,
- visitor safety,
- compatibility with other land uses and site values, such as traditional use by Native Americans,
- feasibility of regular inspections by BLM's staff and volunteers, and
- partnership opportunities for interpretive and educational projects.

Implement a combination of the some or all of following and other actions at selected sites:

- platforms,
- restrooms,
- picnic tables,
- benches,
- trash receptacles,
- signs along routes and trails to direct visitors to interpreted sites,
- hard-surfaced walking trails,
- interpretive signs and register boxes, and
- brochures and related educational materials or programs.

Stabilize, repair, and maintain sites in good condition. Regularly monitor the condition of sites.

Authorize commercial and noncommercial group tours, if they are conducted with protective stipulations, in accordance with BLM's regulations and, where required, SRPs.

Administrative Actions

Select sites for public use by considering the following:

- presence of aboveground features of interest to the public and amenable to interpretive development,
- accessibility to communities, travel routes, and recreation trails,
- condition of the site and the feasibility of stabilizing selected areas or features to withstand visitation,
- visitor safety,
- compatibility with other land uses and site values, such as traditional use by Native Americans,
- feasibility of regular inspections by BLM's staff and volunteers, and
- partnership opportunities for interpretive and educational projects.

The BLM recreation program would participate in developing sites for public use.

Cooperate with agencies, tribes, and local communities in supporting heritage tourism programs that benefit local economies. Develop historic properties for heritage tourism to contribute to their long-term preservation and productive use.

BLM continues to work with the Site Steward Program to regularly monitor the condition of sites.

2.6.2.2.2.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

The entire Management Unit would be allocated to the Castle Hot Springs SRMA (112,430 acres BLM) containing the following Recreation Management Zones:

- Hieroglyphic Mountains RMZ.
- Sheep Mountain RMZ.

Desired Future Condition

Emphasize preserving open space and retaining scenic and visual qualities. Sustain recreation, cultural, and biological assets while recognizing and protecting private property rights. Retain and acquire legal access to public lands.

Management emphasizes a wide range of regional recreation needs, while accomplishing the following:

- maintaining the quality of life for local communities,
- preserving open space and natural landscapes, and
- ensuring resource conservation.

Partnerships and collaborative efforts play a key role in successfully managing this SRMA.

Maintain an array of recreation settings (rural, roaded-natural, semi-primitive motorized, and semi-primitive non-motorized) and opportunities. Recreation activities include the following:

- intense route-based motorized use,
- permitted recreation events,
- developed facilities,
- developed hiking and equestrian trails, and
- remote semi-primitive wilderness settings with non-motorized recreation opportunities.

Intensively manage all recreation uses with a significant BLM ground presence by using signing, facilities, law enforcement, and volunteers.

Establish over the long term a system of high-quality OHV and hiking trails affording many opportunities for hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers, four-wheel drivers, ATVs, and motorcycle enthusiasts.

Management Actions

Manage recreational target shooting consistent with the "Recreational Target Shooting" guidelines in the Recreation discussion of the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area section of this Chapter.

Analyze the feasibility and manageability of establishing parts of the SRMA as a fee-for-use area. The feasibility study would include an analysis to determine if fees are necessary to maintain or enhance the recreation opportunities and conditions of the area. Fees would be used to:

- maintain motorized and non-motorized trails and facilities,
- improve law enforcement, and
- enhance user and community education, stewardship, and volunteer programs.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.2.7 (Map 2-75).

Evaluate and designate all existing and potentially mechanized (OHV), non-mechanized trails and routes on public land in the Castle Hot Springs SRMA within three years of plan approval using a structured process, such as the one described in Appendix D.

Design and develop a comprehensive motorized and non-motorized vehicle route system.

Identify, analyze, build, and designate new single-use and multi-use hiking, equestrian, and OHV/vehicle routes. Network design emphasizes connections that would link them to local trail systems and communities. Routes include a proposed motorized and non-motorized Wickenburg-Lake Pleasant Regional Park-Black Canyon Trail corridor. Planning for this network requires collaboration with the AGFD, Prescott National Forest, Maricopa and Yavapai Counties, and Lake Pleasant Regional Park, to link to trails on BLM's land. Activities envisioned in this area include trail development for:

- differentiated use (motorized and non-motorized travel),
- single use (e.g. hiking or ATVs only),
- multi-use (vehicles, bicycles, hiking, and equestrian use),
- single-track use (e.g. motorcycles or mountain bicycles only), and
- multi-use trails and foot, bike, and horse trails linking Wickenburg and the Lake

Pleasant Regional Park, with other links to Peoria and Phoenix trail systems, and the Black Canyon Trail.

Locate and develop staging areas, trails, signs, trailheads, and other sites when needed for resource protection, visitor health and safety, or maintaining recreation opportunities.

Locate and develop small day-use areas for up to ten vehicles with trailers to provide the following:

- parking,
- unloading OHVs and horses, and
- picnicking.

Development could include the following:

- informational signing,
- kiosks,
- picnic tables,
- loading ramp, and
- soil stabilization for dust abatement.

Limit to 2 acres the area of exposed barren soil for each site. Mark or delineate the perimeter with barriers to prevent expansion.

Confine motorized competitive races to the Hieroglyphic Mountains RMZ.

Land Use Allocation

Hieroglyphic Mountains RMZ (16,510 acres BLM).

Desired Future Condition

Manage mainly for intensive camping and OHV use. The area would include motorized single and two-track routes for general motorized recreation use, commercial use, organized OHV events and competitive races.

Emphasize acceptable dust control and compatibility with neighboring communities and landowners.

Maintain semi-primitive motorized and roaded-natural recreation settings with users concentrated in some areas.

Develop facilities with a variety of amenities consistent with the desired recreation setting. Provide nonintrusive directional route signs and user information in the RMZ.

Management Actions

Make all designated routes within this zone available for general motorized recreation use, commercial use, organized OHV events and competitive races.

Locate at least 20 miles of single and two-track motorized routes to provide a unique array of challenges for truck, buggy, ATV, and motorcycle competitive races.

Limit the number of motorized competitive races to two per year.

Locate and develop the Boulders staging area for the following purposes:

- meeting intense motorized recreation demands,
- parking,
- unloading of OHVs,
- overnight camping, and
- large special-event operations.

Development could include the following:

- informational signs,
- kiosks,
- picnic tables,
- vault toilets,
- campground host facilities, and
- soil stabilization for dust abatement.

Limit to 25 acres the area of exposed barren soil. Mark or delineate the perimeter to prevent further expansion.

Manage recreational target shooting consistent with the "Recreational Target shooting" guidelines in the

Recreation discussion of the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area section of this Chapter.

Locate and develop at least one small staging and camping area for up to ten vehicles with trailers for the following purposes:

- parking,
- unloading OHVs, and
- picnicking.

Development could include the following:

- informational signs,
- kiosks,
- picnic tables,
- loading ramp, and
- soil stabilization for dust abatement.

Limit to 5 acres the areas of exposed barren soil. Mark or delineate the perimeter to prevent expansion.

Apply proactive adaptive management to manage potential conflicts with surrounding communities and landowners, and potential impacts to resources. Mitigation may be needed to reduce these problems. The following are examples of mitigation:

- implementing speed limits on routes to reduce fugitive dust,
- stabilizing soil on routes,
- closing routes for some types of activities,
- imposing stricter noise reduction standards, and
- establishing seasonal or time-of-day use restrictions or both.

Determine specific areas where comprehensive site assessments would be initiated to do the following:

- determine existing physical and social impacts of recreation activities,
- define desired conditions and standards, and
- establish monitoring plans to manage camping and other recreation uses.

Conduct these assessments with public collaboration involving interested residents, users, and other interested parties.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.2.7.

Land Use Allocation

Sheep Mountain RMZ (4,270 acres).

Desired Future Condition

Preserve Sheep Mountain's natural landscape, open-space values, and wildlife habitat.

Maintain a semi-primitive non-motorized recreation setting.

Management Actions

Close all vehicle routes identified as reclaimed during our route inventory, except those evaluated to be needed for administrative access to the area.

Prohibit the building of new motorized routes and commercial rights-of-way.

Prohibit discretionary surface-disturbing activities not compatible with achieving the DFC.

Administrative Actions

Establish a citizen, Government, and organization-based partnership to guide management of the SRMA, including community groups, the City of Peoria, Maricopa and Yavapai Counties, user groups, and other interested parties.

Work closely with law enforcement authorities with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Yavapai County, Maricopa County,

City of Peoria, and other agencies with jurisdiction to:

- enhance visitor and resident safety,
- improve resource protection, and
- ensure BLM's compliance with county, State, or Federal environmental laws.

2.6.2.2.2.6 Wilderness Characteristics

Land Use Allocation

Within the Castle Hot Springs MU, 6,550 acres would be allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics as shown on Map 2-89.

Desired Future Condition

A natural landscape retained between the Hells Canyon Wilderness and Lake Pleasant Regional Park. This area complements the landscape and recreation opportunities in the regional park and the entire Castle Hot Springs SRMA. Provide high-quality primitive recreation and solitude in a region otherwise allocated to motorized recreation. Preserve desert tortoise habitat, sustain riparian areas, and maintain the area's value for use by a wild burro herd. Maintain semi-primitive motorized recreation setting along designated routes. Manage areas beyond ½ mile from a designated route for a semi-primitive non-motorized setting.

Management Actions

Limit motorized vehicle use to designated routes.

Close to motorized traffic the route between Hells Canyon Wilderness and the lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics (the route along the wilderness boundary that is reclaiming). Manage this route as a hiking and equestrian trail.

Develop up to five non-motorized trails and trailheads to link with the Hells Canyon trail system and ultimately to the Maricopa County trail system. Emphasize hiking and equestrian opportunities in recreation management planning.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.2.7.

2.6.2.2.2.7 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative E* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-75.

Within the Castle Hot Springs Management Unit, allocate:

- Hells Canyon Wilderness Area is allocated to VRM Class I,
- Constellation Mine Road/Buckhorn Mine Road to Class II standards ½ mile to either side of the road's centerline,
- Lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics to Class II objectives, and
- Castle Hot Springs SRMA to Class II objectives, except Hieroglyphics Mountain RMZ to Class III objectives.

2.6.2.2.2.8 Mineral Resource Management

Management Actions

Withdraw Tule Creek ACEC from mineral entry, close it to mineral and geothermal leasing, and close to mineral material disposal.

2.6.2.2.2.9 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

The Castle Hot Springs Management Unit would be allocated as a limited use area, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes (Map 2-16).

Other Resource Allocations with Transportation and Public Access Prescriptions

ACECs and Back Country Byways are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.2.1.

SCRMAs and cultural resource sites allocated to Public Use are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.2.4.

SRMAs and other recreation allocations are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.2.5.

Allocations to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.2.6.

Management Actions

No cross-country motorized travel would be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

Close the fenced area within the Tule Creek ACEC (640 acres) to motor vehicles.

The public portions of the proposed Constellation Mine Road/Buckhorn Mine Road Back Country Byways would be maintained to BLM Level 2 standard, (BLM 9100 Manual) passable by high-clearance vehicles.

The Castle Hot Springs SRMA (112,430 acres BLM) would include containing two Recreation Management Zones, the Hieroglyphic Mountains RMZ and the Sheep Mountain RMZ, with specific vehicle and access prescriptions. Evaluate and designate all existing and potentially mechanized (OHV), non-mechanized trails and routes on public land in the Castle Hot Springs SRMA within three years of plan approval using a structured process, such as the one described in Appendix D. Design and develop a comprehensive motorized and non-motorized vehicle route system.

The Hieroglyphic Mountains RMZ (16,510 acres BLM) would include motorized single and two-track routes for general motorized recreation use, commercial use, organized OHV events, and competitive
races. Make all designated routes within this zone available for general motorized recreation use, commercial use, organized OHV events, and competitive races. Locate at least 20 miles of single and two-track motorized routes to provide a unique array of challenges for truck, buggy, ATV, and motorcycle competitive races.

Within the Sheep Mountain RMZ (4,270 acres) all vehicle routes identified as reclaimed would be closed except those necessary to facilitate administrative access to the area. Prohibit the building of new motorized routes.

Within the 6,550 acres of lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics, limit motorized vehicle use to designated routes, as shown on Map 2-84.

Close to motorized traffic the route between Hells Canyon Wilderness and the lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics (the route along the wilderness boundary that is reclaiming). Manage this route as a hiking and equestrian trail.

Develop up to five non-motorized trails and trailheads within the wilderness character allocation area to link with the Hells Canyon trail system and ultimately to the Maricopa County regional trail system.

Consider development of hard-surfaced walking trails at selected cultural sites within the Lake Pleasant/Agua Fria SCRMA (27,240 acres BLM) for interpretation, education, and visitation to prehistoric and historic sites.

Implementation Actions

Designation of a route network as shown on Map 2-84 would be considered an implementation action.

2.6.2.2.3 Hassayampa Management Unit

The Hassayampa MU is bounded on the east by Prescott National Forest and the Castle Hot Springs MU, and on the west by Harquahala MU. The southern edge is south of the Vulture Mountains, and the northern boundary is north of Yarnell. The Town of Wickenburg is located at the MU's center (Map 2-85). The MU contains the following land:

- 181,910 acres of BLM-administered lands,
- 130,580 acres of Arizona State land,
- 50,610 acres of private land, and
- 460 acres of county-administered lands in Maricopa and Yavapai Counties

2.6.2.2.3.1 Special Area Designations

Current Special Area Designations within the Management Unit would be managed consistent with management actions described in section 2.7.3.2 in the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area section of this chapter.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Vulture Mountain ACEC (6,120 acres BLM)

Relevance

The cliffs along the crest of Vulture and Caballeros Peaks are significant habitat features used by many raptor species. Also, they are a pristine, scenic landmark. These cliffs are essential to maintaining the current biological diversity of the surrounding area. Large concentrations of nesting hawks and falcons use these spectacular cliff faces.

Importance

The value of the cliffs for nesting raptors is significant for a large area. These cliffs are virtually the only suitable nesting cliffs for many miles. Nesting raptors are sensitive to construction-related activities. If the cliffs and surrounding area are not protected from these activities, cliff-nesting raptors would disappear from much of the area.

Desired Future Condition

Maintain the raptor nesting habitat values of the cliffs and the surrounding foraging habitat.

Management Actions

The ACEC boundary provides a 1-mile buffer around the cliffs that are significant to raptor nesting.

Consider building new routes only when necessary to meet natural resource objectives and where routes would not degrade the resources for which the ACEC is being created.

Prohibit building new recreation sites, however, maintain the Vulture Peak Trail and trailheads to their current condition and standards.

Mitigate vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining wildlife values to ensure achieving the DFC. Mitigation measures include relocating routes, limiting season, and closing routes.

Prohibit rock climbing within the ACEC.

Acquire non-Federal lands within the ACEC as available.

Back Country Byways

Constellation Mine Road/Buckhorn Mine Road Back Country Byway

Desired Future Condition

Provide a vehicle route accessible by high-clearance vehicles through views of the rugged Sonoran Desert landscape in the Buckhorn and

Hieroglyphic Mountains, with the high Bradshaw Mountains as a backdrop. Interpret the diverse resources and cultural history in a way that creates a greater understanding of the region's resources and a greater appreciation for the people who live there and have lived there in the past. Along this route create a comprehensive visitor experience that is sensitive to both resources and private lands and provides a high-quality visitor experience. Maintain a semi-primitive motorized recreation setting ½ mile to either side of the road's centerline.

Management Actions

Evaluate Constellation Mine Road/Buckhorn Mine Road for nomination as a back country byway. If it is designated, implement the following actions.

- Keep the public portions of this road maintained at a BLM Level 2 standard, (BLM 9100 Manual) passable by high-clearance vehicles.
- Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.3.7.
- Secure easements and rights-of-way where needed to ensure long-term public access along Constellation Mine Road.
- Interpret and protect the route's historical features, including original road construction structures; mining properties and districts; and historic homesteads, settlements, and ranching history.
- Maintain the road to protect and stabilize its historical features.
- Mitigate wildlife movement as needed.
- Install directional, safety, and interpretive signs to enhance public use, enjoyment, and stewardship of the route.
- Establish a friends group to monitor and help interpret the route and present the route and area's natural and human history.

2.6.2.2.3.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

Alternative E proposes 741 acres in Hassayampa MU as suitable for disposal. These lands were selected in accordance with resource management prescriptions in this land use plan as limited by criteria described in section 2.7.1.2 Lands and Realty.

Communication Sites

No designated communication sites are within this MU, and *Alternative E* proposes none for this area.

Utility and Transportation Corridors (Map 2-79)

Multiple-Purpose Corridors

Designate a new 1-mile-wide corridor leg on the Meade-Phoenix corridor (partly in Hassayampa MU, partly in Harquahala MU).

Transportation Corridors

Designate all State highway system routes as transportation corridors, including the following:

- a new 1-mile-wide corridor along U.S. 89 from Yarnell to Wickenburg
- a new 1-mile-wide corridor along U.S. 60 south of Wickenburg
- a new corridor for the Wickenburg Bypass (to be designated as U.S. 93)
- a new corridor for the Canada-Mexico (CanaMex) highway extending north from Interstate 10 to the Vulture Mine Road, connecting with the Wickenburg Bypass somewhere in the vicinity of Vulture Mine.

Two locations for the Wickenburg Bypass are currently under consideration by Arizona Department of Transportation. Once the route is chosen, a 1-mile-wide transportation corridor will be designated along the route. The corridor may not be centered on the right-of-way, but will be located with the bypass within it, and the boundaries adjusted to minimize conflict with

resources or management objectives along its route.

2.6.2.2.3.3 Biological Resources

Alternative E proposes no other biological designations for the Hassayampa MU. Biological resources subject to management guidance are in Biological Resources from the Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of this chapter and Biological Resources from the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area section of this chapter.

2.6.2.2.3.4 Cultural Resources

Land Use Allocations

Wickenburg/Vulture SCRMA (124,000 acres BLM)

Weaver/Octave SCRMA (2,730 acres BLM)

Desired Future Condition

Manage selected prehistoric and historic sites for interpretive development, educational uses, and public visitation. For further information on public use of cultural resources, see Appendix E.

Coordinate with the BLM's recreation program in developing sites for public use.

Cooperate with agencies, tribes, and local communities in supporting heritage tourism programs that benefit local economies. Develop historic properties for heritage tourism in a manner that contributes to their long-term preservation and productive use.

Management Actions

Develop the following historic sites for public use: Vulture City Cemetery, Constellation Road, Monte Cristo Mine, and a cemetery and stone structures in Weaver.

Select other sites for public use by considering the following factors:

- presence of aboveground features of interest to the public and amenable to interpretive development,
- accessibility to communities, travel routes, and recreation trails,
- site condition and the feasibility of stabilizing selected areas or features to withstand visitation,
- visitor safety,
- compatibility with other land uses and site values, such as traditional use by Native Americans,
- feasibility of regular inspections by BLM's staff and volunteers, and
- partnership opportunities for interpretive and educational projects.

A combination of the some or all of the following and other actions could be implemented at selected sites:

- platforms,
- restrooms,
- picnic tables,
- benches,
- trash receptacles,
- signs along routes and trails to direct visitors to interpreted sites
- hard-surfaced walking trails,
- interpretive signs and register boxes, and
- brochures and related educational materials or programs.

Stabilize, repair, and maintain sites in good condition. Regularly monitor the condition of sites.

Authorize commercial and noncommercial group tours, conducted with protective stipulations in accordance with BLM's regulations and, where required, SRPs.

2.6.2.2.3.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

The entire Management Unit would be allocated to the Hassayampa SRMA (181,910 acres BLM) with the following Recreation Management Zones within it (Map 2-85):

- Stanton RMZ,
- Wickenburg Community RMZ,
- San Domingo Wash RMZ, and
- Vulture Mine RMZ.

Desired Future Condition

The long-term goals for the area are as follows:

- to conserve the area's natural, scenic, recreation, and cultural resources,
- to recognize and protect private property rights, and
- to maintain diverse recreation activities for residents and visitors.

Management emphasizes meeting a range of local and tourism-based regional recreation needs while maintaining the quality of life for local communities. Recreation activities include the following:

- intense motorized uses,
- permitted recreation events,
- developed facilities, and
- intense non-motorized trail system.

Intensively manage all recreation uses with a significant BLM and citizen volunteer ground presence through signing, facilities, and law enforcement.

Establish a system of high-quality equestrian and motorized trails surrounding Wickenburg. This trail system would afford many opportunities for all recreationists and enhance the lifestyle, culture, and cultural history of community residents.

Emphasize and maintain, in suitable areas, an array of rural, roaded-natural, semi-primitive motorized, and semi-primitive non-motorized settings; and experiences and opportunities for residents, tourists, and winter visitors. Maintain current recreation settings as depicted on the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum on Map 3-11, except where otherwise stipulated in RMZ allocations.

Maintain long-term public access to the Yarnell hang gliding launching area and landing zones (Map 2-32). This site is one of the most valued in Arizona for successful launching of long-distance nonpowered flights.

Management Actions

Work closely with law enforcement authorities; including the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Yavapai County, Maricopa County, City of Peoria, and other agencies with jurisdiction to:

- enhance visitor and resident safety,
- improve resource protection, and
- ensure BLM's compliance with county, State, or Federal environmental laws.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.3.7 (Map 2-75).

Limit motorized use to designated routes. Develop and designate a comprehensive motorized and non-motorized trail system.

Identify, analyze, build, and designate new single- and multi-use, hiking, equestrian, and vehicle routes, and link them to local trail systems and communities. Routes include a proposed motorized and non-motorized Wickenburg-Lake Pleasant Regional Park-Black Canyon Trail corridor. Activities envisioned in this area include trail development as follows:

- Differentiated use (motorized and non-motorized travel),
- Single use (e.g. hiking or ATVs only),

- Multi-use (vehicles, bicycles, hiking, and equestrian use),
- Single-track use (e.g. motorcycles or mountain bicycles only), and
- Multi-use trails and foot, bicycle, and horse trails linking Wickenburg and Lake Pleasant Regional Park, with other links to the Peoria/Phoenix trail systems and the Black Canyon Trail.

Confine motorized competitive races to the San Domingo and Vulture RMZs.

Administrative Actions

Establish a working group to provide recommendations for managing the SRMA, including community groups, the Town of Wickenburg, Maricopa County, civic organizations, user groups, and other interested parties.

Complete a detailed, comprehensive, site-specific inventory and designation of all existing and proposed motorized (OHV) routes and non-motorized trails on public land in the SRMA within 3 years of plan approval.

Land Use Allocation

Stanton RMZ (6,050 acres BLM)

Desired Future Condition

Provide diverse recreation experiences while reducing unacceptable environmental impacts from the following recreation uses:

- excessive and unregulated camping,
- activities of prospecting clubs, and
- motorized activities, and other recreation uses.

Maintain a variety of recreation settings and opportunities with an emphasis on semi-primitive motorized and roaded-natural settings and opportunities.

Management Actions

Prohibit motorized competitive races in the RMZ.

Locate and develop trailheads, staging and camping areas, and other facilities as needed for resource protection. Provide for visitor safety. Resolve social conflicts. Improve the quality of recreation experiences. Increase recreation opportunities.

Develop a diverse network of motorized vehicle routes for a range of OHV experiences and challenges, compatible with the existing non-motorized trails in the RMZ.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.3.7.

Administrative Actions

Determine specific areas where comprehensive site assessments would be initiated to do the following:

- determine existing physical and social impacts of recreation activities,
- define desired conditions and standards, and
- establish monitoring plans to manage camping and other recreation uses.

Land Use Allocation

Wickenburg Community RMZ (72,040 acres BLM) including the Red Top Trail System and "The Box" (Map 2-91).

Desired Future Condition

Collaborate with a diverse group of Wickenburg citizens and organizations in a collective effort to conserve the ecological, cultural, open space, and recreation values of the Wickenburg area, so that it remains a place where people want to live, work, and recreate.

Preserve open space and provide a wide array of landscape-based recreation while conserving

scenic landscapes and maintaining cultural and biological assets.

Offer quality recreation and tourism with proper management and marketing. Users exhibit a strong land ethic for conserving and protecting the natural resources and cultural heritage of the Wickenburg RMZ.

Develop a system of high-quality equestrian and hiking trails that surround Wickenburg, buffer the area from urban sprawl, and preserve the open space of the local landscape. This trail system affords many opportunities for recreationists and enhances the lifestyle and cultural history of community residents.

Emphasize and maintain an array of rural, roaded-natural, semi-primitive motorized, and semi-primitive non-motorized settings; and opportunities in suitable areas for the enjoyment of residents, tourists, and winter visitors.

Conserve the canyon on the Hassayampa River known as "The Box" and surrounding lands as a recreation area for hiking, horseback riding, limited motorized use, picnicking, camping, and social gatherings, while protecting and enhancing the values of the riparian habitat.

Management Actions

Acquire the 19,396 acres of Arizona State land within the SRMA. Prioritize and pursue acquisition using the criteria in the Lands and Realty discussion of the Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of Chapter 2. Lands will be acquired according to the following priorities:

- maintaining access and securing trail alignments,
- enhancing recreation opportunities,
- preserving scenery and open space, and
- conserving riparian values.

Maintain and upgrade the Vulture Peak Trail by rerouting or reengineering eroded trail segments.

Develop and install facilities for horse camping south of Vulture Peak and south of Congress. Amenities could range from developed to more primitive facilities.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.3.7.

Administrative Actions

Complete a comprehensive strategy and trails plan to select and develop new single- and multi-use hiking, equestrian, and OHV trails for all lands in the RMZ.

Red Top Trail System

Desired Future Condition

Provide a high-quality non-motorized trail network and amenities in the Red Top Mountain area. Allow for motorized uses where appropriate to avoid conflicting uses.

Management Actions

Identify, analyze, build and designate new trails less than 52 inches wide, as needed, for resource protection, visitor safety, or meeting management objectives.

Locate and develop a large non-motorized trailhead and staging area for the Red Top Trail System for the following purposes:

- meeting the high demand for non-motorized recreation,
- parking,
- unloading horses,
- overnight camping, and
- and organized events.

Development could include the following:

- informational signs,
- kiosks,
- picnic tables,
- hitching posts,

- troughs for water hauled to the site, and
- soil stabilization for dust abatement.

Limit to 10 acres the area of exposed barren soil. Mark or delineate the perimeter as needed to prevent expansion.

Locate and develop a small day use motorized trailhead and staging area for the Red Top Trail System, to accommodate up to ten vehicles with trailers, for the following purposes:

- meeting the high motorized recreation demand,
- reduce user conflicts,
- parking,
- unloading OHVs, and
- picnicking.

Development could include the following:

- informational signs,
- kiosks,
- picnic tables,
- loading ramp, and
- soil stabilization for dust abatement.

Limit to 2 acres the area of exposed barren soil for each site. Mark the area's perimeter with barriers to prevent expansion.

Identify, analyze, build, and designate an ATV and a motorcycle trail network in the Red Top Trail area to give the local community opportunities to shift motorized use from the designated non-motorized trails. Use existing designated motorized vehicle routes and create new trails less than 52 inches wide, if needed, to meet management objectives.

Administrative Actions

Revise the existing Red Top Trail Project Plan, in cooperation with the local community and interested user groups, to expand the non-motorized Red Top Trail network. The revised plan would address actions to meet the high demand for non-motorized recreation.

"The Box" (Map 2-91)

Desired Future Condition

Provide a high-quality non-motorized recreation use area with amenities in Box Canyon, known as "The Box".

Management Actions

Locate and develop picnic, camping, and public use areas. Develop passenger car access to these sites.

Designate access routes for varied uses such as hiking and horseback riding.

Identify, analyze, build, and designate four-wheel drive, jeep, ATV, sand rail, and dirt bike trails with suitable use areas and limitations. Close areas where improper vehicle activity is occurring.

Develop facilities such as toilets, tables, parking, campsites, and other amenities where needed to protect resources or reduce user conflicts.

Administrative Actions

Establish partnerships with the Town of Wickenburg, Yavapai County, and community groups to pursue management endeavors in this area. Such endeavors include developing and implementing a site plan to guide recreation use.

Create a volunteer service and community partnership program to modify visitor behavior and organize community cleanup efforts.

Develop and conduct monitoring as facilities are built or designated so that suitable use limits can be set for picnic areas and campsites.

Land Use Allocation

San Domingo Wash RMZ (16,040 acres BLM)

Desired Future Condition

Provide a Sonoran Desert wash and upland environment suitable for an array of motorized and non-motorized uses. Manage for semi-primitive motorized and some roaded-natural settings.

Provide opportunities for the following while protecting the natural and cultural resources in the area:

- intensive camping,
- OHV activities,
- equestrian use,
- recreation activities of prospecting clubs,
- event operations, and
- motorized single and two-track routes for general motorized recreation use and competitive races

Management Actions

Locate at least 10 miles of single- and two-track motorized routes to provide an array of challenges for ATVs, and motorcycle competitive races.

Limit the number of motorized competitive to 2 per year.

When needed for resource protection, visitor health and safety, or maintaining recreation opportunities, develop facilities such as the following:

- staging areas,
- trails,
- signs,
- trailheads, and
- other sites.

Locate and develop one large motorized and non-motorized staging and camping area for the following purposes:

- meeting the high motorized and non-motorized recreation demand,
- parking and unloading OHVs and horses,
- overnight camping, and
- event operations.

Development could include the following:

- informational signs,
- kiosks,
- picnic tables,
- loading ramp, and
- soil stabilization for dust abatement.

Limit to 20 acres the site's areas of exposed barren soil. Mark or delineate the perimeter with barriers to prevent expansion.

Locate and develop at least 1 day use motorized and non-motorized staging area for the following purposes:

- meeting the high motorized and non-motorized recreation demand and
- parking and unloading OHVs and horses, and picnicking.

Development could include the following:

- informational signs,
- kiosks,
- picnic tables,
- loading ramp, and
- soil stabilization for dust abatement.

Limit to 5 acres the site's areas of exposed barren soil. Mark or delineate the perimeter with barriers to prevent expansion.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.3.7.

Administrative Actions

Determine specific areas where comprehensive site assessments would be initiated to do the following:

- determine existing physical and social impacts of recreation activities,
- define desired conditions and standards, and
- establish monitoring plans to manage camping and other recreation uses.

Land Use Allocation

Vulture Mine RMZ (30,100 acres BLM)

Desired Future Condition

Provide a Sonoran Desert landscape suitable for intensive motorized single and two-track routes for general motorized recreation use, commercial use, organized OHV events and competitive races.

Emphasize and maintain the roaded-natural and semi-primitive motorized recreation settings.

Preserve the mining and settlement history of the Vulture City Cemetery.

Management Actions

Locate at least 15 miles of single- and two-track motorized routes to provide an array of challenges for truck, buggy, ATV, and motorcycle competitive races.

Limit the number of motorized competitive races to 4 per year.

Locate and develop one large motorized staging and camping area for the following purposes:

- meeting the high motorized recreation demand,
- parking,
- unloading OHVs,
- overnight camping, and
- event operations.

Development could include the following:

- informational signs,
- kiosks,
- picnic tables,
- loading ramp, and
- soil stabilization for dust abatement

Limit to 20 acres the area of exposed barren soil. Mark or delineate the perimeter with barriers to prevent expansion.

Manage recreational target shooting consistent with the "Recreational Target Shooting" guidelines in the Recreation discussion of the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area section of this Chapter.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.3.7.

Administrative Actions

Determine specific areas where comprehensive site assessments would be initiated to do the following:

- determine existing physical and social impacts of recreation activities,
- define desired conditions and standards, and
- establish monitoring plans to manage camping and other recreation uses.

Develop a site management and interpretation plan for the Vulture City Cemetery.

2.6.2.2.3.6 Wilderness Characteristics

Alternative E proposes no allocations to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics for the Hassayampa MU.

2.6.2.2.3.7 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative E* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-75.

Within the Hassayampa Management Unit, allocate:

- Constellation Mine Road/Buckhorn Mind Road (½ mile to either side of the road's centerline) to VRM Class II,
- Hassayampa SRMA to VRM Class II except
    - San Domingo Wash RMZ to VRM Class III,
    - Vulture Mine RMZ to VRM Class III,
    - Stanton RMZ to VRM Class III, and
    - Wickenburg Community RMZ to VRM Class II where desired recreation settings are semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized and VRM Class III where desired settings are Rural or Roaded Natural.
- Utility corridors would be allocated to VRM Class III or IV.
- Areas not listed above, VRM classes would be as portrayed on Map 2-75.

2.6.2.2.3.8 Mineral Resource Management

Alternative E proposes no mineral withdrawals or closures within the Hassayampa MU.

2.6.2.2.3.9 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

The Hassayampa Management Unit would be allocated as a limited use area, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes (Map 2-16).

Other Resource Allocations with Transportation and Public Access Prescriptions

ACECs and Back Country Byways are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.3.1.

SCRMAs and cultural resource sites allocated to Public Use are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.3.4.

SRMAs and other recreation allocations are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.3.5.

Management Actions

No cross-country motorized travel would be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

Mitigate vehicle routes within the Vulture Mountain ACEC (6,120 acres BLM) that conflict with maintaining wildlife values to ensure achieving the DFC. Mitigation measures include relocating routes, limiting season or time-of-day use, and closing routes. Consider building new routes only when needed to meet natural resource objectives. Maintain the Vulture Peak Trail to the current condition and standards

Maintain the proposed Constellation Mine Road/Buckhorn Mine Road, if designated as a back country byway, at a BLM Level 2 standard, (BLM 9100 Manual) passable by high-clearance vehicles.

The Hassayampa SRMA (181,910 acres BLM) would include four Recreation Management Zones. These are the Stanton RMZ, the Wickenburg Community RMZ, the San Domingo Wash RMZ, and the Vulture Mine RMZ. All the RMZs have motorized and non-motorized use prescriptions.

The Wickenburg SRMA would include a system of high-quality equestrian and motorized trails surrounding Wickenburg. Develop and designate a comprehensive motorized and non-motorized trail system. Identify, analyze, build, and designate new single- and multi-use, hiking,

equestrian, and vehicle routes, and link them to local trail systems and communities. Routes include a proposed motorized and non-motorized Wickenburg-Lake Pleasant Regional Park-Black Canyon Trail corridor. Complete a detailed, comprehensive, site-specific inventory and designation of all existing and proposed motorized (OHV) routes and non-motorized trails on public land in the SRMA within three years of plan approval.

The Stanton RMZ (6,050 acres BLM) would offer a diverse network of motorized vehicle routes for a range of OHV experiences and challenges, compatible with the existing non-motorized trails in the RMZ.

The Wickenburg Community RMZ (72,040 acres BLM) would include the Red Top Trail System and "The Box" (Map 2-91). Develop a system of high-quality equestrian and hiking trails surround Wickenburg. Maintain and upgrade the Vulture Peak Trail by rerouting or re-engineering eroded trail segments. Complete a comprehensive strategy and trails plan to select and develop new single- and multi-use hiking, equestrian, and OHV trails for all lands in the RMZ.

Establish the Red Top Trail System to provide high-quality non-motorized trail network experiences. Allow for motorized uses where appropriate to avoid conflicting uses. Identify, analyze, build, and designate new trails less than 52 inches wide, as needed, for resource protection, visitor safety, or meeting management objectives. Identify, analyze, build, and designate an ATV and motorcycle trail network in the Red Top Trail area. Use existing designated motorized vehicle routes and create new trails less than 52 inches wide, if needed, to meet management objectives.

"The Box" area would be designed to provide a high-quality non-motorized recreation use experience. Develop passenger car access to these sites. Designate access routes for varied uses such as hiking and horseback riding. Identify, analyze, build, and designate four-wheel drive, jeep, ATV, sand rail, and dirt bike trails with suitable use areas and limitations. Close areas where improper vehicle activity is occurring.

The San Domingo Wash RMZ (16,040 acres BLM) would offer a Sonoran Desert wash and upland environment experience suitable for an array of motorized and non-motorized uses. Locate at least 10 miles of single- and two-track motorized routes to provide an array of challenges for ATV, and motorcycle competitive races.

The Vulture Mine RMZ (30,100 acres BLM) would offer intensive motorized single and two-track routes for general motorized recreation use, commercial use, organized OHV events and competitive races. Locate at least 15 miles of single- and two-track motorized routes to provide an array of challenges for truck, buggy, ATV, and motorcycle competitive races.

Consider development of hard-surfaced walking trails at selected cultural sites within the Wickenburg/Vulture SCRMA (124,000 acres BLM) and the Weaver/Octave SCRMA (2,730 acres BLM) where needed for for interpretation, education, and visitation to prehistoric and historic sites.

Administrative Actions

Develop a Wickenburg RMZ Travel and Public Access Plan.

Revise the existing Red Top Trail Project Plan, in cooperation with the local community and interested user groups, to expand the non-motorized Red Top Trail network.

2.6.2.2.4 Harquahala Management Unit

Alternatives C, D, and *E* would slightly expand the Harquahala MU. The MU would still be bounded on the east by the Hassayampa MU and would extend west to the PFO boundary near the town of Wenden. However, the MU would include

private and State land south to Interstate 10. The northern boundary would still follow the BLM's property line south of State Route 60, which goes west of Wickenburg through Aguila and Wenden (Map 2-86). The Harquahala MU contains the following land:

- 420,730 acres of BLM-administered lands,
- 48,410 acres of Arizona State land, and
- 29,616 acres of private land.

2.6.2.2.4.1 Special Area Designations

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC (96,430 acres BLM).

Relevance

The area constitutes a rare, intact, mountaintop vegetation community surrounded by low desert. As the highest topographic feature in the region, the mountains contain a biologically diverse system, in stark contrast to the surrounding landscape. The mountain range supports a diverse sky island ecosystem, with many species not found in the surrounding Sonoran Desert. The mountains are a natural area with few noticeable human intrusions in a primitive landscape setting. The mountain range is high enough that, from the summit, mountains in Mexico are visible during very clear air conditions. Conversely, the mountain range is a dominant landscape feature for travelers in many areas of southwest Arizona, visible from major highways (such as Interstate 10 and US Highway 60) as much as a hundred miles away.

Importance

The ONA does the following:

- encloses and preserves unique biological resources,
- conserves significant cultural and historic sites, and
- protects distinctive vegetation and wildlife communities.
- The biological richness of the Harquahala Mountains is unique within southwest Arizona. The Harquahala Mountains and surrounding bajadas provide important wildlife habitat to a diverse array of species. The area is an ecoregional conservation site with important biodiversity values.
- The ONA contains the Harquahala Mountain Observatory, which is within a National Register of Historic Places district. The historic Harquahala Peak Pack Trail, Ellison's Camp, and other sites are components of the historic district. The area also includes many well-preserved prehistoric sites along with historic ranching and mining sites. Some archaeological sites may be related to the use of the mountain range by a regional group of the Western Yavapai tribe. The ONA will safeguard important and unfragmented wildlife habitat.

Desired Future Condition

Protect sensitive resources discussed in the statements of relevance and importance.
Minimize the visual intrusion of any management activity so as to retain the outstanding scenic quality and natural landscape appearance consistent with VRM Class II standards.

Achieve long-term conservation of scenic, natural resource, and cultural values.
Preserve outstanding opportunities for high-quality hiking, backpacking, hunting, wildlife observation, and cultural study prospects.
Permit vehicle access only on designated routes.
Practicing backcountry skills,
Attaining isolation from other users
Maintain the plant diversity and richness of the chaparral, riparian/wetland, and Sonoran Desert scrub vegetation communities.

Achieve and maintain unfragmented wildlife habitat, which provides adequate forage, cover,

and access to water for healthy wildlife populations. Accommodate:

- interpretive development,
- educational uses,
- and public visitation at selected prehistoric and historic sites in the ONA. (For further information on public use of cultural resources, see Appendix E.)

Management Actions

Limit motorized vehicle use to designated routes.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.4.7.

Mitigate surface disturbance inconsistent with achieving the DFC.

Unless new vehicle routes and fences are needed to mitigate resource conflicts and achieve DFC, prohibit such construction.

In the Inner Basin prohibit grazing improvements that encourage concentrated livestock use.

Approve improvements in this area if they

- are needed to meet resource objectives,
- would help achieve DFC, and
- conform to the standards and objectives for the area.

Restore and protect all spring sources and the wildlife habitat values of springs.

Acquire from willing parties State and private lands because of the ONA resources on such lands.

Identify, monitor, and protect important cultural resources.

Maintain the Harquahala Observatory historical site and its interpretive facilities to current standards and conditions.

Select specific cultural sites for public use by considering the following factors:

- presence of aboveground features of interest to the public and amenable to interpretive development,
- accessibility to communities, travel routes, and recreation trails,
- site condition and the feasibility of stabilizing selected areas or features to withstand visitation,
- visitor safety,
- compatibility with other land uses and site values, such as traditional use by Native Americans,
- feasibility of regular inspections by BLM's staff and volunteers, and
- partnership opportunities for interpretive and educational projects.

Implement a set of the following actions:

- building visitor facilities,
- installing signs along routes and trails to direct visitors to interpreted sites,
- building hardened walking trails,
- installing interpretive signs and register boxes, and
- preparing brochures and related educational materials or programs

Implement actions to stabilize, repair, and maintain selected cultural sites in a condition that preserves their value to scientific or public uses as needed. Regularly monitor the condition of these sites for possible remedial action. Authorize commercial and noncommercial group tours if they are conducted with protective stipulations, in accordance with BLM's regulations and, where required, special SRPs.

Administrative Actions

The BLM's recreation program would help develop sites for public use. Cooperate with agencies, tribes, and local communities in

supporting heritage tourism programs that benefit local economies. Develop historic properties for heritage tourism to contribute to their long-term preservation and productive use.

Black Butte ONA ACEC (8,260 acres BLM)

Relevance

The area contains the Vulture obsidian source, which was a major source of "Apache tears" used to make stone tools during prehistoric times. The cliffs at the crest of Black Butte are significant habitat features used by raptor species and are a pristine, scenic landmark. These cliffs are essential to maintaining the biological diversity of the surrounding area.

Importance

Archaeologists recognize the Vulture obsidian source as one of the major sources of a valuable trade commodity in prehistoric Arizona. Obsidian (volcanic glass) was used widely in making stone tools. Nodules of Vulture obsidian have a distinctive chemical composition that allows archaeologists to map changes in its distribution, use, and trade by prehistoric peoples. Vulture obsidian has been traced to prehistoric sites within at least a 100-mile radius of Black Butte.

The value of the cliffs for nesting raptors is significant for a large area. Nesting raptors are sensitive to construction-related human activities. If these cliffs are not protected from these activities, cliff-nesting raptors would disappear from much of the surrounding area.

Desired Future Condition

Manage the area to emphasize protecting the sensitive resources discussed in the statements of relevance and importance. Maintain current natural conditions and open space. Minimize the visual intrusion of any management activity so as to preserve the outstanding scenic quality and natural landscape appearance.

Manage the area surrounding Black Butte and Jackrabbit Wash for the following:

- preserving good non-motorized recreation opportunities and settings,
- conserving scenic volcanic landscapes,
- Maintain a semi-primitive non-motorized recreation setting.

Retain Black Butte's cultural significance as an important source of material for prehistoric tool production. Sustain important raptor nesting habitat in the central Black Butte cliffs area. Restore, enhance, and maintain wildlife and plant diversity and species richness of this Sonoran Desert vegetation community. Set as ONA priorities conserving vegetation communities and managing for healthy wildlife populations.

Management Actions

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.4.7.

Mitigate surface disturbance that inhibits achieving DFC.

Prohibit building new recreation sites that conflict with raptor management or cultural prescriptions. Build non-motorized trails and recreation facilities, if needed, to ensure resource protection, protect wildlife habitat, or enhance recreation opportunities.

Manage the ACEC to preserve the Vulture obsidian source, permit scientific study of it, and implement actions to restrict activities that threaten its integrity.

Prohibit rock climbing in the ACEC.

Prohibit the collecting of minerals and fossils if rockhounding increases to the point of damaging the integrity of the Vulture obsidian source and related archaeological sites.

2.6.2.2.4.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

The land in the Harquahala MU proposed as suitable for disposal amounts to 3,528 acres (Map 2-78). This land has been selected in accordance with the resource management prescriptions in this land use plan as limited by criteria described in section 2.7.1.2 Lands and Realty.

Communication Sites

The Harquahala Peak communication site is the only such designated site within this MU.

Utility and Transportation Corridors (Map 2-79)

Multiple-Purpose Corridors

- Shift the Central Arizona Project (CAP) corridor to the north, extending it one mile north from the southern CAP right-of-way boundary.
- Add a new 1-mile-wide corridor leg on the Meade-Phoenix corridor (partly in Harquahala MU, partly in Hassayampa MU).

Transportation Corridors

Designate all State highway system routes as transportation corridors, including the new 1-mile-wide corridor along U.S. 60 near the Maricopa-La Paz County line.

2.6.2.2.4.3 Biological Resources

Land Use Allocation

Belmont/Big Horn Mountains WHA (140,310 acres BLM)

Desired Future Condition

Restore, enhance, and maintain the wildlife, plant diversity, and species richness of the Sonoran Desert scrub vegetation community. Unfragmented wildlife habitat provides adequate forage, cover, and access to water for healthy wildlife populations. Conserving and managing for healthy wildlife populations are priorities in managing the area.

Management Actions

Modify existing fences and incorporate design features in new fences to ensure free movement of mule deer and bighorn sheep.

Mitigate vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining wildlife habitat values to ensure achieving DFC. Mitigation includes the following:

- relocating route segments,
- building wildlife passes,
- limiting seasonal or time-of-day use, and
- closing routes.

Acquire State and private lands within the WHA from willing sellers.

Mitigate the impact of future vehicle route improvements on priority wildlife species, especially desert bighorn sheep and desert tortoise to ensure achieving DFC.

Mitigate recreation use and development to minimize impacts on priority wildlife species to ensure achieving DFC.

2.6.2.2.4.4 Cultural Resources

Nearly the entire area of the Harquahala SCRMA is included within The Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC**.** Management of cultural resources in the Harquahala SCRMA within the Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC can be found in section 2.6.2.2.4.1. The historic Harquahala Peak Smithsonian Observatory and the Harquahala Peak Pack Trail would be allocated to public use. Allocate other sites for

public use and interpretive development consistent with management actions described for the Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC.

Acquire 700 acres south of Aguila to protect significant cultural resources. Complete an archaeological survey of this area to evaluate the integrity of archaeological sites and determine site protection measures. Manage cultural resources to conform to prescriptions for the Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC. Acquire other State and private lands within the MU on a willing seller/willing buyer basis consistent with priorities in the Lands and Realty discussion of the Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of Chapter 2.

2.6.2.2.4.5 Recreation Resources

Though the entire Harquahala MU would be allocated as an ERMA, the following recreation management would apply in addition to those actions described in the Recreation and Public Access - Travel and Transportation Planning discussions of the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area:

Implementation Actions

Select, plan, and develop at least one staging and camping area to meet motorized and non-motorized recreation demand. Have this area provide accommodation for the following:

- parking,
- unloading OHVs and horses,
- overnight camping, and
- large organized event operations.

Development may include the following:

- informational signs,
- kiosks,
- picnic tables,
- hitching posts,
- troughs for water hauled to the site,
- loading ramp, and
- soil stabilization for dust abatement.

Limit to 20 acres the area of exposed barren soil. Mark or delineate the perimeter with barriers to prevent expansion.

Develop at least one day-use area near or adjacent to lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics in the Belmont Mountains. The development would be designed for up to 50 vehicles with trailers to meet the non-motorized recreation demand. The facility would provide for parking, unloading horses, picnicking, and small special event operations. Development may include the following:

- informational signs,
- kiosks,
- picnic tables,
- hitching posts,
- loading ramp, and
- soil stabilization for dust abatement.

Mark or delineate the perimeter of the Belmont Mountain day-use area to prevent expansion. Limit to 5 acres the site's area of exposed barren soil.

2.6.2.2.4.6 Wilderness Characteristics

Land Use Allocation

Within the Harquahala Management Unit, 55,480 acres would be allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics as shown on Map 2-89.

Desired Future Condition

Maintain and manage wilderness characteristics, open space, and wildlife habitat. Retain natural landscapes. Ensure high-quality natural landscapes, solitude, and outstanding primitive recreation opportunities in a remote setting. Preserve an array of scenic and special features. Restore, enhance, and maintain the wildlife/plant diversity and species richness of this Sonoran

Desert scrub vegetation community. Wildlife populations and habitat are important aspects of the naturalness and will be actively managed. Maintain important and unfragmented habitat for desert tortoises and desert bighorn sheep.

Management Actions

Limit motorized vehicle use to designated routes. Routes proposed to be designated as open are shown on Map 2-86.

Manage the recreation setting along designated routes for a semi-primitive motorized setting. Manage areas away from designated motorized routes as semi-primitive non-motorized.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.4.7.

Prohibit building new fences, unless their construction helps to achieve the DFC.

Acquire State and private lands on a willing seller/willing buyer basis.

Prohibit building new recreation sites that would conflict with wildlife management, habitat, or movement, or would affect sensitive cultural or botanical resources. Build non-motorized trails and recreation facilities only if needed for the following purposes:

- to ensure resource protection,
- to protect wilderness characteristics, and
- to protect wildlife habitat

2.6.2.2.4.7 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative E* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-75.

Within the Harquahala Management Unit, allocate:

- Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC, Black Butte ONA ACEC, VRM Class II.
- Lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics VRM Class II and continue VRM Class I in designated wilderness.
- Utility corridors would be allocated to VRM Class III or IV.
- The rest of the Management Unit would be allocated to VRM classes as portrayed on the above referenced map.

2.6.2.2.4.8 Mineral Resource Management

Alternative E proposes no withdrawals or mining closures.

2.6.2.2.4.9 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

The Harquahala Management Unit would be allocated as a limited use area, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes (Map 2-16).

Other Resource Allocations with Transportation and Public Access Prescriptions

ACECs are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.4.1.

WHAs are discussed in the Biological Resources section 2.6.2.2.4.3.

Allocations to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.4.6.

Management Actions

No cross-country motorized travel would be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

Limit motorized vehicle use to designated routes within the Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC (96,430 acres BLM). Routes that would be designated as open are shown on Map 2-86. Prohibit new vehicle routes unless needed to mitigate resource conflicts and achieve DFC.

Limit motorized vehicle use to designated routes within the Black Butte ONA ACEC (8,260 acres BLM). Proposed open routes are shown on Map 2-86. Build non-motorized trails and recreation facilities within the Black Butte ONA ACEC if needed, to ensure resource protection, protect wildlife habitat, or enhance recreation opportunities.

Mitigate vehicle routes within the Belmont/Big Horn Mountains WHA (140,310 acres BLM) by relocating route segments, building wildlife passes, limiting seasonal or time-of-day use, or closing routes that conflict with maintaining wildlife habitat values to ensure achieving DFC.

Limit motorized vehicle use to designated routes within the 55,480 acres allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics as shown on Map 2-86. Routes proposed to be designated as open are also shown on Map 2-86.

Implementation Actions

Designation of a route network as shown on Map 2-86 would be considered an implementation action.

2.6.2.2.5 Harcuvar Management Unit

The Harcuvar MU encompasses the easternmost end of the Harcuvar Mountains within the PFO's administrative area. Most of the Harcuvar Mountain range is administered by BLM's Lake Havasu Field Office. The Harcuvar MU is bounded on the west and north by the PFO boundary with the Lake Havasu Field Office, and on the east and south by the boundary between BLM and non-BLM administered lands (Map 2-87). The MU contains the following land:

- 53,200 acres of BLM-administered lands,
- 6,280 acres of Arizona State land, and
- 3,360 acres of private land.

The MU contains no proposed special area designations. VRM classes for *Alternative E* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-75. The entire Management Unit would be allocated as an Extensive Recreation Management Area and managed consistent with the discussion in section 2.7.3.7 of the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area portion of this Chapter.

2.6.2.2.6 Upper Agua Fria River Basin Management Unit

The Upper Agua Fria River Basin MU is sandwiched between Prescott National Forest's Bradshaw Mountains and Verde Ranger Districts. The MU stretches from Cordes Lakes in the south to the Town of Prescott Valley in the north (Map 2-88). The MU contains the following lands:

- 21,520 acres of BLM-administered lands,
- 36,990 acres of Arizona State land, and
- 39,290 acres of private land.

2.6.2.2.6.1 Special Area Designations

Nomination to National Recreation Trails System

Black Canyon Trail

Desired Future Conditions

Provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding urban population to promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas and

historic resources of the Black Canyon corridor. A National Recreation Trail should be established primarily, near urban areas; secondarily, within scenic areas and along historic travel routes of the area.

Management Actions

Consider and study the Black Canyon Trail for inclusion into the National Recreation Trail System, as described in the National Trails System Act of 2002 (P.L.90-543).

Issue a right-of-way for the trail and ancillary trails and facilities to preserve public access and long-term character.

Acquire easements or rights-of-way on non-Federal lands if the trail or facilities are proposed for any of these lands.

Recognize and accommodate long-term continuation of the trail and facilities in land tenure actions. Retain a 1/4-mile wide corridor (1/8 mile each side of the trail) along the trail and any ancillary facility for a permanent trail location. Ensure public access to the trail and related facilities through easements, rights-of-way, deed restrictions, or other suitable means.

2.6.2.2.6.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure

No lands would be disposed of within the Upper Agua Fria River Basin MU.

Communication Sites

No designated communication sites are proposed for this MU.

Utility and Transportation Corridors

Multiple-Purpose Corridors

Build a new 1-mile-wide corridor leg centered on the El Paso Natural Gas Line.

Transportation Corridors

Designate all State highway system routes as transportation corridors, including a new 1-mile-wide corridor along SR-69, a 1/2-mile on each side of the centerline.

2.6.2.2.6.3 Biological Resources

Biological resources would be subject to management guidance in the Biological Resources discussion of the Management Common to Both Planning Areas section, and the Biological Resources discussion of the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area section of this chapter. No other biological allocations would be made within the Upper Agua Fria River Basin MU.

2.6.2.2.6.4 Cultural Resources

Land Use Allocation

Galena Gulch SCRMA (2,500 acres BLM). Allocate to public use selected sites that are accessible from the Black Canyon Trail.

Desired Future Condition

Selected prehistoric and historic sites are interpreted for public education and visitation. Interpretive projects are completed in a manner that monitors and protects sites while allowing for public use. For more information on public use of cultural resources, see Appendix E.

Management Actions

Build trails to link public use sites to the Black Canyon trail. Local site types potentially suitable for public use include the following:

- prehistoric hilltop structures,
- rock art,
- mining camps, and
- features of the historic Black Canyon sheep driveway.

Develop historic properties for heritage tourism to contribute to their long-term preservation and productive use.

Implement a combination of some or all of following and other actions at selected sites:

- platforms,
- restrooms,
- picnic tables,
- benches,
- trash receptacles,
- signs along routes and trails to direct visitors to interpreted sites,
- hard-surfaced walking trails,
- interpretive signs and register boxes, and
- brochures and related educational materials or programs.

Take actions to stabilize, repair, and maintain sites in good condition. Regularly monitor site conditions.

Authorize commercial and noncommercial group tours if they are conducted with protective stipulations in accordance with BLM regulations. Where required, issue SRPs.

Administrative Actions

Select sites for public use by considering the following factors:

- presence of aboveground features of interest to the public and amenable to interpretive development.
- accessibility to communities, travel routes, and recreation trails.
- condition of the site and the feasibility of stabilizing selected areas or features to withstand visitation.
- visitor safety.
- compatibility with other land uses and site values, such as traditional use by Native Americans.
- feasibility of regular inspections by BLM's staff and volunteers, and
- partnership opportunities for interpretive and educational projects.

The BLM recreation program would participate in developing sites for public use.

BLM would cooperate with agencies, tribes, and local communities in supporting heritage tourism programs that benefit local economies. Develop historic properties for heritage tourism to contribute to their long-term preservation and productive use.

2.6.2.2.6.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

Upper Agua Fria River Basin SRMA (21,440 acres BLM)

Desired Future Condition

Maintain the SRMA's natural landscape and open space. Offer visitors recreation opportunities, scenic views, access to the Black Canyon Trail, and other trail systems.

The open space character of the land is retained, maintaining natural landscapes and recreation opportunities for the future.

Emphasize rural, roaded-natural, and semi-primitive motorized recreation settings where suitable.

Management Actions

Locate, and develop new trails, parking, and staging areas, where suitable, for motorized and non-motorized use.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.6.6 (Map 2-75).

Land Use Allocation

North Black Canyon Hiking and Equestrian Trails RMZ (3,210 acres BLM)

Desired Future Condition

Complete the Black Canyon Trail north and east of Highway 69 to connect with trails in Prescott National Forest. Analyze, build and designate the trail to provide a non-motorized experience along the historic sheep driveway. Identify exact locations of the trail and facilities in conjunction with the Yavapai Trails Association and other interested citizens. Maintain rural roaded-natural and semi-primitive motorized settings as suitable. Consider and study the Black Canyon Trail for inclusion into the National Recreation Trail System, as described in the National Trails System Act of 2002 (P.L.90-543).

Management Actions

Locate and develop staging, or camping areas near communities and vehicle access points to service the north Black Canyon Trail and adjoining public lands for the following purposes:

- parking,
- unloading OHVs and horses, and
- picnicking.

Development could include the following:

- informational signs,
- kiosks,
- picnic tables,
- loading ramps, and
- soil stabilization for dust abatement.

Limit to 5 acres the area of exposed barren soil on each site. Mark or delineate the perimeters to prevent expansion.

Issue a right-of-way for the trail and facilities to preserve public access and protect the trail from incompatible land uses.

Acquire access easements or rights-of-way for non-Federal lands where the trail or facilities are proposed.

Recognize the trail and facilities in any land tenure actions. Retain a 1/4-mile corridor (1/8 mile each side) along the trail.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.6.6.

Evaluate the Black Canyon Trail for inclusion into the National Recreation Trail System, as described in the National Trails System Act of 2002 (P.L.90-543).

Administrative Actions

Work with citizen volunteer groups to complete a comprehensive strategy and trails plan for selecting and developing new single- and multi-use hiking, equestrian, and OHV trails for all lands in the SRMA. Collaborate with the following entities:

- AGFD,
- Prescott National Forest,
- Yavapai County,
- Yavapai County Trails Association, and
- land managers of other trails.

Establish a citizen's working group to help with trail and facility sites, designs, and management. Develop a Black Canyon Trail management and partnership plan with community and citizen input in conjunction with the Black Canyon Trail Plan for the Black Canyon SRMA. Within one year of plan approval define the following:

- proposed trail alignments,
- trailheads,
- linking trails, and
- other alignments.

Complete this master plan within two years of plan approval.

2.6.2.2.6.6 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative E* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-75. The entire Upper Agua Fria River Basin Management Unit would be allocated to VRM Class III objectives.

2.6.2.2.6.7 Mineral Resource Management

Alternative E proposes no mineral withdrawals or closures within the MU.

2.6.2.2.6.8 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocation

The Upper Agua Fria River Basin Management Unit would be allocated as a limited use area, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes (Map 2-16).

Other Resource Allocations with Transportation and Public Access Prescriptions

SCRMAs and cultural resource sites allocated to Public Use are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.6.4.

SRMAs and other recreation allocations are discussed in section 2.6.2.2.6.5.

Desired Future Conditions

Define, designate, implement, and monitor a designated and travel management network. The travel management network and associated recreation opportunities would be consistent with other resource management objectives for the area.

Management Actions

No cross-country motorized travel would be permitted except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

The Upper Agua Fria River Basin SRMA (21,440 acres BLM) would offer visitors access to the Black Canyon Trail and other trail systems. Locate, and develop new trails, where suitable, for motorized and non-motorized uses.

Within the North Black Canyon Hiking and Equestrian Trails RMZ (3,210 acres BLM), locate and develop staging, or camping areas near communities and vehicle access points to service the north Black Canyon Trail. Issue a right-of-way for the trail and facilities to preserve public access and protect the trail from incompatible land uses. Acquire access easements or rights-of-way for non-Federal lands, where the trail or facilities are proposed. Recognize the trail and facilities in any land tenure actions. Retain a 1/4-mile corridor (1/8 mile each side) along the trail. Evaluate the Black Canyon Trail for inclusion into the National Recreation Trail System, as described in the National Trails System Act of 2002 (P.L.90-543). Complete a new BCT this master plan within 2 years of plan approval.

Build trails to link cultural public use sites to the Black Canyon Trail. Trails could lead to suitable sites including prehistoric hilltop structures, rock art, mining camps, and features of the historic Black Canyon sheep driveway.

Administrative Actions

Apply an evaluation process, similar to one described in Appendix D, to guide establishment of a designated public access and route system to support resource objectives consistent with *Alternative B*.

Develop a Travel and Transportation Management Plan. This plan would implement the designated route system for the Management Unit.

2.7 Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Introduction

While certain planning components vary across the Alternatives, others apply to all Alternatives. Some components common to all Alternatives result from previous land use decisions determined still to be valid and carried forward into the revised plans. Others originate from new planning decisions made since adopting the pre-existing plans. The common actions that apply to both planning areas appear first; those that apply only to Agua Fria National Monument are presented second, and those that apply only to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area are presented third.

Many scattered, isolated BLM-administered parcels are located outside the planning area boundaries (Map 1-2). These parcels are included in this plan because BLM remains responsible for managing them. Some of the lands are managed under the *Kingman RMP* (BLM 1993a), whereas others are managed under the *Phoenix RMP* (BLM 1988a). According to both of these RMPs, there was no support for retaining these lands for resource allocation, special area designation, or public access concerns. Therefore, the selected Alternatives for these RMPs contained no resource management actions for these parcels. They are difficult to manage because of their isolation and the small size of the individual parcels. As in the *Kingman RMP* and the *Phoenix RMP*, BLM has elected to deal with these lands more generally than with lands inside the planning areas. Still, the scattered parcels are included in the land tenure decisions for each Alternative. The actions or components described below, which are common to all Action Alternatives, were developed during the public involvement and Alternative development phases of the RMP and EIS process.

2.7.1 Management Common to Both Planning Areas

2.7.1.1 Land Health Standards

In managing and implementing all resource programs, BLM must consider the Land Health Standards described in *Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration* (Rangeland Management). The Land Health Standards were developed, pursuant to 43 CFR 4180, through a collaborative process involving BLM's staff and the Arizona Resource Advisory Council (RAC). The Land Health Standards were approved by the Secretary of the Interior in April 1997. These standards have been developed to determine the characteristics of healthy ecosystems on public lands and management actions to promote them. When approved, the Land Health Standards became BLM Arizona policy, guiding the planning for and management of BLM-administered lands. The Land Health Standards, therefore, have been incorporated into both the Agua Fria National Monument and Bradshaw-Harquahala RMPs. Listed below are the standards that describe the conditions needed to encourage proper functioning of ecological processes and that have been adopted as the Land Health Standards applicable program wide to BLM Arizona.

Standard One: Upland Sites

Upland soils exhibit infiltration, permeability, and erosion rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, and landform (ecological site).

Criteria for Meeting Standard One

Soil conditions support the proper functioning of hydrologic, energy, and nutrient cycles. Many factors interact to maintain stable soils and healthy soil conditions, including suitable amounts of vegetation cover, litter, and soil porosity and organic matter. Under proper functioning conditions, rates of soil loss and infiltration are consistent with the site's potential.

Ground cover in the form of plants, litter, or rock is present in pattern, kind, and amount sufficient to prevent accelerated erosion for the ecological site; or ground cover is increasing as determined by monitoring over an established period of time.

Signs of accelerated erosion are minimal or diminishing for the ecological site as determined by monitoring over an established period of time.

As indicated by such factors as:

- ground cover,
- litter,
- live vegetation (e.g., grass, shrubs, trees) amount and type,
- rock ,
- signs of erosion,
- flow pattern,
- gullies, and
- rills and plant pedestaling.

Exceptions and exemptions (where applicable):

None.

Standard Two: Riparian-Wetland Sites

Riparian-wetland areas are in properly functioning condition.

Criteria for Meeting Standard Two

Stream channel morphology and functions are appropriate for proper functioning condition for existing climate, landform, and channel reach characteristics. Riparian-wetland areas are functioning properly when adequate vegetation, landform, or large woody debris is present to dissipate the stream energy of high-water flows.

Riparian-wetland functioning condition assessments are based on examination of hydrologic, vegetation, soil and erosion-deposition factors. BLM has developed a standard checklist to address these factors and make functional assessments. Riparian-wetland areas are functioning properly as shown by the results of applying the appropriate checklist.

The checklist for riparian areas is in Technical Reference 1737-9, Process for Assessing Proper Functioning Condition (BLM 1993d). The checklist for wetlands is in Technical Reference 1737-11, Process for Assessing Proper Functioning Condition for Lentic Riparian-Wetland Areas (BLM 1994c).

As indicated by such factors as the following:

- gradient,
- width/depth ratio,
- channel roughness and sinuosity of stream channel,
- bank stabilization,
- reduced erosion,
- captured sediment,
- ground water recharge, and
- dissipation of energy by vegetation.

Exceptions and exemptions (where applicable):

- Dirt tanks, wells, and other water facilities built or placed at a location to provide water for livestock or wildlife and not determined through local planning to provide for riparian or wetland habitat are exempt.
- Water impoundments permitted for construction, mining, or other similar activities are exempt.

Standard Three: Desired Future Conditions

Productive, diverse upland, and riparian-wetland plant communities of native species exist and are maintained.

Criteria for Meeting Standard Three

Upland and riparian-wetland plant communities meet DPC objectives. Plant community objectives are determined with consideration for all multiple uses. Objectives also address native species and the requirements of the Taylor Grazing Act (TGA); FLPMA; Endangered

Species Act (ESA); Clean Water Act (CWA); and suitable laws, regulations, and policies.

DPC objectives will be developed to assure that soil conditions and ecosystem function described in Standards 1 and 2 are met. These objectives detail a site-specific plant community, which when obtained, will assure rangeland health; State water quality standards; and habitat for endangered, threatened, and sensitive species. Thus, DPC objectives will be used as an indicator of ecosystem function and rangeland health.

As indicated by such factors as the following:

- composition,
- structure, and
- distribution.

Exceptions and exemptions (where applicable):

Ecological sites or stream reaches on which a change in existing vegetation is physically, biologically, or economically impractical are exempt.

2.7.1.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustment

Management Actions

Land tenure decisions determine which lands will be retained, which will be proposed for disposal, and which will be proposed for acquisition. These decisions must achieve the goals, standards, and objectives in the land use plan.

Lands found to be potentially suitable for disposal by sale or exchange in this land use plan meet the criteria in Sections 203 and 206 of the FLPMA of 1976, and other laws and regulations.

For land tenure adjustments, BLM prioritizes acquiring lands that contain habitat recognized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as needed for the recovery of federally listed threatened or endangered species.

BLM does not dispose of land:

- occupied by species that are listed or proposed to be listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA,
- with designated or proposed critical habitat for a listed or proposed threatened or endangered species,
- supporting listed or proposed threatened or endangered species if such transfer would conflict with recovery needs and objectives or would likely impede the recovery of the listed or proposed species, and/or
- supporting Federal candidate species if such action would contribute to the need to list the species as threatened or endangered.

Exceptions to the above may occur if the recipient of the lands would protect the species or critical habitat equally well under the ESA, such as disposal to a non-Federal governmental agency or private organization if conservation purposes for the species would still be achieved and ensured.

Maintain, obtain, and secure access rights to all BLM-administered lands to meet BLM goals and objectives. This action is accomplished by requiring reciprocal grants (where needed) when granting rights-of-way across BLM-administered lands and pursuing land disposal actions.

Issue right-of-way reservations to BLM on existing designated routes that are needed for implementing the RMP.

In adjusting land tenure (including land exchange, purchase, sale, and donation), consider the following:

- Evaluate and balance all resource requirements and consolidate land

ownership to achieve management efficiency and reduced costs of administration, thereby improving Federal land management.

- Evaluate the effects of land adjustments on sensitive species habitat. Avoid land adjustments that could result in a trend toward Federal listing or a loss of population viability for sensitive species.
- Acquire land that contains resources determined to be important in contributing toward BLM resource management goals and objectives, when these resources are threatened by land use change or when management may be enhanced by public ownership. Resources so identified may include historical or heritage resources, outstanding scenic values, critical ecosystems, or potential recreation opportunities.
- Acquire land that reduces conflicts between public and private landowner objectives.
- Evaluate the effects of long-term adjustments in jurisdiction near urban and rural communities on community economic and social stability and environmental sustainability. Work with a diverse network of residents, user groups, and governments to determine how land tenure adjustments can enhance both local communities and environmental health.

Land Use Allocations

In response to a projected regional transportation demand, designate all State highway system routes (Interstate, U.S. routes, and Arizona State routes) as transportation corridors in the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area.

Specifically, facilities significant enough to be the basis for corridor designation are the following:

- natural gas and other pipelines at least 10 inches in diameter,
- electric transmission facilities accommodating 115 kV lines or greater voltage , and
- significant canals delivering water to urban areas.

Management Actions

Route major utility systems through designated corridors. Encourage new rights-of-way within designated corridors to promote the maximum use of existing routes. Encourage joint use whenever possible.

Collocate smaller utility lines needed for local service near corridors or within a corridor unless doing so would limit the opportunity to collocate other major utility lines in the corridor.

Whenever possible, promote energy transfer efficiency and support alternative energy sources, such as the use of photovoltaic cells (solar energy) and wind power.

Whenever possible, design or route utility transmission lines to minimize adverse visual impacts to the surrounding lands and vistas.

Designate BLM utility corridors consistent with authorities granted under the following:

- FLPMA Title V, Sections 501-511 (43 USC 1761-1771),
- Mineral Leasing Act of 1928 (CFR 2880), and
- BLM Right-of-Way Manual, Sections 2801.11 and 2801.12.

Administrative Actions

BLM continues to cooperate as a partner (with the Forest Service, Arizona Public Service, and Salt River Project, in Arizona) in the Western Utility Group, whose mission is to facilitate an exchange of information and coordinate planning between Federal agencies and utility providers throughout the western United States.

Land Use Allocation

Communication Sites

Management Actions

BLM planning related to communication infrastructure must, in accordance with the Telecommunications Act of 1996, help facilitate implementing wireless telephone systems, in compliance with existing law, by making Federal lands and facilities available for communication sites.

Accept applications for communication sites on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with the resource management prescriptions in this land use plan.

Consider communication site applications on lands that have been identified for disposal on a case by case basis. If an application is approved and the lands are subsequently exchanged or sold, reserve the communication site, subject to valid existing rights. Retain and make subject to valid existing rights previously designated communication sites. On lands that have been acquired or identified for retention, limit communication site development to previously designated sites. Develop communication site plans for all designated sites.

Design communication sites following guidelines developed by the USFWS to minimize impacts to migratory birds.

Administrative Actions

As suitable, coordinate communication-related planning with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Land Use Allocation

Land Use Authorizations

Management Actions

Continue to issue land use authorizations (rights-of-way, leases, permits, easements) on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with resource management prescriptions in this land use plan.

Prohibit apiary (bee keeping) permits within 1/4 mile of facilities such as the following:

- high-use recreation areas such as campgrounds, trailheads, and staging areas,
- designated non-motorized trails,
- areas or routes with permitted recreation activities, and
- active scientific and research areas.

Land Use Allocation

Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act

Management Actions

Under the R&PP Act, accept applications from State and local governments and non-profit organizations on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with resource management prescriptions in this land use plan.

Land Use Allocation

Public Land Withdrawals and Classifications

Management Actions

Consider public land withdrawals and classifications on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with resource management prescriptions in this land use plan. Actions prohibited by the terms of the withdrawal or classification remain in effect until such withdrawals are revoked or classifications terminated.

2.7.1.3 Soil, Air, and Water Resources

Implementing the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration (Land Health Standards) (BLM

1997a) would meet the requirement for soils to support proper functioning of hydrologic, energy, and nutrient cycles.

Identify, quantify, and secure legal entitlement to all existing water sources on the public lands and seek to acquire water rights, when possible, to ensure water availability to meet multiple-resource needs. Assert Federal reserved water rights, where suitable, in Agua Fria National Monument and the five wilderness areas to secure water for the purposes of the reservations.

Monitor and protect water quality to meet Federal and State standards. Ensure that the water needs of flora and fauna are met.

Ensure that all land tenure decisions are reviewed for their impacts to water resources, including protection of instream flows.

2.7.1.4 Biological Resources

Land Use Allocation

Management of Desert Tortoise Habitat

Desired Future Conditions - Desert Tortoise

Desert tortoise habitat, by habitat category, will be managed to achieve the following desired conditions:

- Category I - Maintain stable, viable populations and protect existing tortoise habitat values and increase populations where possible,
- Category II - Maintain stable, viable populations and halt further declines in tortoise habitat values, and
- Category III - Limit tortoise habitat and population declines to the extent possible through mitigation.

Categories I and II desert tortoise habitat will retain all natural sheltersites (boulders or caliche caves or similar features used by tortoises for sheltering) and be unfragmented. Vegetation will consist of at least 5 percent native perennial grasses, at least 10 percent native perennial forbs or subshrubs, at least 30 percent native trees and cacti, by dry weight, as limited by the potential of the ecological site as described by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) ecological site guides.

Management Actions - Desert Tortoise

Standardize desert tortoise management throughout its habitat. Management would be consistent with the following documents:

- Desert Tortoise Habitat Management on Public Lands: A Rangewide Plan (BLM 1988b).
- Strategy for Desert Tortoise Habitat Management on Public Lands in Arizona, Instruction Memorandum No. AZ-91-16 (BLM 1990a)
- Strategy for Desert Tortoise Habitat Management on Public Lands in Arizona: New Guidance on Compensation for the Desert Tortoise, Instruction Memorandum No. AZ-92-46 (BLM 1992), and
- Supplemental Guidance for Desert Tortoise Compensation, Instruction Memorandum No. AZ-99-008 (BLM 1999).

Desert tortoise habitat would be managed according to the categories shown on Map 2-92. Habitat management categories and boundaries would be revised as new population information becomes available. The criteria that would be used in revising categories and boundaries are those in the 1988 Rangewide Plan (BLM 1988b).

The criteria for Category I tortoise habitat areas are the following:

- Habitat areas are essential to maintenance of large, viable populations.
- Conflicts are resolvable.

- Populations are medium to high density or low density contiguous with medium or high density.
- Populations are increasing, stable, or decreasing.

The criteria for Category II tortoise habitat areas are the following:

- Habitat areas may be essential to maintenance of viable populations.
- Most conflicts are resolvable.
- Populations are medium to high density or low density contiguous with medium or high density.
- Populations are stable, or decreasing.

Category III tortoise habitat areas are the following:

- Habitat areas are not essential to maintenance of viable populations.
- Most conflicts are not resolvable.
- Populations are low to medium density not contiguous with medium or high density.
- Populations are stable or decreasing.

No net loss would occur in the quality or quantity of Category I and II desert tortoise habitat to the extent practicable. BLM would address and include mitigation measures in decision documents to offset the loss of quality or quantity of Category I, II, and III tortoise habitats.

Compensation may be required to mitigate residual impacts from authorized actions.

Evaluate on a case-by-case basis all proposed activities, including the following, for impacts to desert tortoise population or habitats:

- requests for rights-of-way,
- easements,
- withdrawals,
- other land tenure actions,
- range improvements,
- wildlife habitat projects,
- mineral material sales, and
- commercial and organized group SRP applications.

Mitigation for adverse impacts is permissible to achieve no net loss in quantity or quality of desert tortoise habitat.

In Category I and II tortoise habitats, all motorized competitive races would be prohibited between March 1 through October 15. All other use requests during this time would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and may be denied or adjusted to avoid conflict with tortoise activity and habitat. Mitigation for conflicts would be permissible to achieve no net loss in quantity or quality of desert tortoise habitat.

All mining plans of operations would be assessed for impacts to desert tortoise habitat on a case-by-case basis. Adverse impacts to desert tortoise would be mitigated to the extent allowable in the 3809 regulations.

Administrative Actions - Desert Tortoise

Maintain and develop a proactive public education program on the desert tortoise and its habitat requirements, including participation in public events with tortoise habitat information. Update existing tortoise brochure every five years or as needed.

Continue to work with and support other agencies and public entities in desert tortoise conservation.

Management Actions - Priority Species and Priority Habitats

Emphasize and give priority to managing priority species and priority habitats in conflict resolution. Priority species include the following:

- game species,
- special status species,
- birds of conservation concern, and
- raptors.

See Appendix H for a complete list. Priority habitats include areas allocated as WHAs (pronghorn fawning habitat, pronghorn movement corridors, bighorn sheep habitat), ACECs, riparian areas, springs, bat roosts, and desert tortoise habitat.

Reintroductions, transplants, and supplemental stockings (augmentations) of wildlife populations would be carried out in collaboration with AGFD or the USFWS for the following purposes:

- to maintain current populations, distributions, and genetic diversity,
- to conserve or recover threatened or endangered species, and
- to restore or enhance native wildlife species diversity and distribution.

Species that may be reintroduced, transplanted, or augmented include pronghorn; desert bighorn sheep; mule deer; desert tortoise; beavers; lowland leopard frogs; Mexican garter snakes; and native fishes like spikedace, Gila chub, Gila topminnow, desert pupfish, longfin dace, speckled dace, and desert sucker.

Management Actions - Threatened or Endangered Species

The actions described below implement the Terms and Conditions and Conservation Recommendations contained in the following Biological Opinions and Conference Opinion:

- [2-21-88-F-167] The Phoenix Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.
- [2-21-96-F-421] The Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan (1983), and Lower Gila North Grazing EIS (1982).
- [2-21-96-F-422] The Eastern Arizona Grazing EIS, Phoenix District Portion.
- [2-21-99-F-031] Reintroduction of Gila Topminnow and Desert Pupfish into Three Tributaries of the Agua Fria River.
- [2-21-03-C-409] Existing Phoenix Resource Management Plan for the Agua Fria National Monument.
- [2-21-03-F-210] BLM Arizona Statewide Land Use Plan Amendment for Fire, Fuels, and Air Quality Management.

Acquisition criteria for non-Federal lands would include the potential

- to enhance the conserving and managing of threatened or endangered species habitat, riparian habitat, desert tortoise habitat, key big game habitat and
- to improve the overall manageability of wildlife habitat.

BLM would not transfer from Federal ownership the following:

- designated or proposed critical habitat for a listed or proposed threatened or endangered species,
- lands supporting listed or proposed threatened or endangered species if such transfer would be inconsistent with recovery needs and objectives or would likely affect the recovery of the listed or proposed species, and
- lands supporting Federal candidate species if such action would contribute to the need to list the species as threatened or endangered.

Exceptions to the above could occur if the recipient of the lands would protect the species or critical habitat equally well under the ESA, such as disposal to a non-Federal governmental agency or private organization if conservation purposes for the species would still be achieved and ensured.

Wildlife and prescribed fire management will incorporate the T/E Species Conservation Measures described in Appendix P which resulted from the BLM Arizona Statewide Land Use Plan Amendment for Fire, Fuels, and Air Quality Management (BO #2-21-03-F-210).

Desired Future Condition - Gila Topminnow, Gila Chub and Desert Pupfish

All biologically suitable perennial waters on public lands in the planning areas will be occupied by thriving populations of Gila topminnow, Gila chub, and desert pupfish.

Management Actions - Gila Topminnow, Gila Chub and Desert Pupfish

In cooperation with the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, re-establish Gila topminnow, Gila chub and desert pupfish into suitable habitat sites throughout the planning area.

Stream bank alteration due to recreation activities and livestock grazing in areas occupied by Gila topminnow, Gila chub, and desert pupfish would be limited to 25 percent annually.

Domestic livestock utilization of native riparian trees along streams occupied by Gila chub, Gila topminnow, and desert pupfish would be limited to 30 percent of the apical stems per growing season.

Fuels treatments on watersheds for habitat occupied by Gila topminnow, Gila chub, and desert pupfish would be limited to no more than 1/2 the watershed in any two year period.

Administrative Actions - Gila Topminnow, Gila Chub and Desert Pupfish

In coordination with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, monitor all Gila topminnow, Gila chub and desert pupfish populations annually.

Monitor for mortality of Gila topminnow, Gila chub and desert pupfish populations following significant runoff events within one year of treating the watershed with prescribed burns.

All monitoring results will be shared with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service annually.

At Silver Creek and Indian Creek:

- Monitor stream bank alteration and vegetation two times annually, during and following livestock seasonal use period.
- Monitor functional condition and trend every 3 years.

At Tule Creek:

- Inspect and maintain the fenced exclosure two times annually when livestock are present in the area.
- Monitor stream bank alteration and vegetation annually when livestock are present.
- Monitor functional condition and trend every 3 years.

Desired Future Condition - Spikedace

The Agua Fria River, where biologically suitable, is occupied by a thriving population of spikedace.

Management Actions - Spikedace

In cooperation with the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, re-establish a spikedace population in the Agua Fria River.

Desired Future Condition - Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

Riparian areas that could physically support (due to floodplain width and gradient) southwestern willow flycatcher habitats will attain the vegetation structure, plant species diversity, density, and canopy cover to constitute suitable habitat. Vegetation in these riparian areas will be sufficiently dense and structurally complex to inhibit flycatcher predators and cowbirds from finding flycatcher nests. Livestock management facilities or other facilities will not be located so that they would attract cowbirds to suitable flycatcher habitat.

Management Actions - Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

Within the range of southwestern willow flycatcher, livestock grazing would conform to the guidelines described in the "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" section of Guidance Criteria for Determinations of Effects of Grazing Permit Issuance and Renewal on Threatened and Endangered Species (BLM and US Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona and New Mexico 1999) or any subsequent agreed-upon amendment to these guidelines.

The current guidance criteria for Not Likely to Adversely Affect states:

1. Disturbance of individuals or nests, predation, or parasitism would not be likely because livestock use would not occur in occupied habitat during any time of the year.
2. Suitability for nesting flycatchers would not be reduced because livestock grazing in unoccupied suitable habitat would not occur during the growing season (key vegetation characteristics are maintained or enhanced and conditions promoting cowbird parasitism are avoided).
3. Cowbird parasitism would be unlikely because grazing would occur greater than five miles from occupied habitat during the breeding season, or
4. Monitoring of flycatcher nests demonstrates that no cowbird parasitism is occurring when livestock use occurs closer than 5 miles, but not within, occupied habitat, or
5. Cowbird parasitism would be unlikely due to the physical juxtapositions of habitat type, terrain, facilities, elevation, and other factors.
6. Progression of potential habitat towards becoming suitable within 10 years would not be impeded by livestock grazing (e.g. regeneration or maintenance of woody vegetation is not impaired by trampling, bedding, or feeding).
7. Sufficient monitoring is in place to demonstrate that habitat suitability is being maintained or enhanced in accordance with two and four above. Such monitoring would continue through the life of the grazing action under consideration.

Desired Future Condition - Bald Eagle

Habitat quality and quantity of riparian areas within the foraging range of bald eagles in the Lake Pleasant area is maintained and nesting and habitat for wintering birds in the Agua Fria River drainage is maintained. Sufficient quantity and quality of these riparian areas provide roosting and potential nesting trees and adequate prey.

Desired Future Condition - Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Riparian areas that could physically support (due to floodplain width and gradient) yellow-billed cuckoo habitats will attain the vegetation structure, plant species diversity, density, and canopy cover to constitute suitable habitat. Livestock utilization will not substantially reduce the abundance, density or distribution of native riparian tree species through herbivory.

Management Actions – Other Priority Species – Desert Bighorn Sheep

Domestic sheep and goat grazing will be prohibited within nine miles of occupied desert bighorn sheep habitat to avoid disease transmission and comply with Bureau guidelines. Desert bighorn sheep habitat is depicted on Map 3-10.

Management Actions – Other Priority Species – Birds of Conservation Concern

Management of habitat for Birds of Conservation Concern will emphasize avoidance or minimizing impacts and restoring and enhancing habitat quality to implement Executive Order 13186. Through the permitting process, ensure the maintenance of habitat

quantity and quality. Take (as defined in the Glossary) of migratory birds from authorized activities will be minimized or avoided.

Desired Future Condition – Riparian Habitat

Riparian areas will include a plant community that consists of streambanks dominated (> 50 percent) by native species from the genera Scirpus, Carex, Juncus, and Eleocharis. The size class distribution of native riparian obligate trees will be > 15 percent seedlings, > 15 percent mid-size, and > 15 percent large size (depending on existing conditions and the site potential). Size classes are defined as follows:

- Seedlings are < 1 inch in basal diameter.
- Mid-sizes are 1 to 6 inches in basal diameter.
- Large sizes are > 6 inches in basal diameter.

Management Actions - Springs

Developed springs, seeps, and other projects affecting water and related resources would be designed to protect ecological functions and processes and to continue to provide habitat at the source for endemic invertebrates, native fishes, and other native aquatic species that may be present.

Water rights needs would be quantified, filed for, and protected, including those for instream flows, streams, springs, and other water sources important to wildlife, fish, and riparian values.

Water quality would be monitored and protected to meet Federal and State standards and to ensure that the needs of fish and wildlife are met along with the needs of people.

Desired Future Conditions – Bat Roosts

The bat roost habitat values associated with natural caves and abandoned mine features are protected and these sites do not pose a threat to human safety.

Management Actions - Bat Roosts

Authorized activities will ensure the maintenance of bat roost habitat quantity and quality, using mitigation to achieve the DFC.

Desired Future Conditions – Wildlife Habitat Across All Areas

Maintain, restore, or enhance the diversity, distribution, and viability of populations of native plants and wildlife, and maintain, restore, or enhance overall ecosystem health. Discretionary activities in the planning areas will be managed to ensure connectivity of habitats and maintenance of unrestricted wildlife movement.

All upland areas will include:

- a plant community that consists of native perennial grass and ground cover adequate to improve wildlife habitat and
- improved watershed function based on monitoring and ecological site potential. Upland sites include five percent or greater dry-weight composition of native perennial grass, as limited by the potential of the ecological site as described by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) ecological site guides.

The Desired Plant Community for upland sites will have a long-term stable population of columnar cacti and paniculate agave, where the sites have the potential for such plant communities.

Management Actions - Wildlife Habitat Across All Areas

Identify, minimize, and mitigate for wildlife habitat degradation, loss, and fragmentation to achieve the DFC.

The Land Health Standards described in Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration (BLM 1997a) continue to be applied to all activities on the public land.

The density and distribution of wildlife waters would be maintained, improved, or increased throughout the planning areas to sustain and enhance wildlife populations across their range.

All existing wildlife waters would be maintained or improved as needed to maintain the presence of perennial water for wildlife.

New wildlife waters would be built when needed to maintain, restore, or enhance native wildlife populations or distributions.

Reasonable administrative vehicular access would be allowed for AGFD staff to wildlife water facilities for maintenance, repair, or research.

Water developments, including those for purposes other than wildlife would include design features to ensure safe and continued access to water by wildlife.

The planning areas contain suitable habitat for relocating and releasing individual animals and release of rehabilitated wildlife. These types of wildlife releases are not intended to establish new populations but are appropriate in areas of suitable habitat. Wildlife species that could be released include black bears; mountain lions; burrowing owls; and other raptors, reptiles, and game species.

The evaluation of vehicle routes, in conjunction with the route designation process, would consider the effect on wildlife habitat values. Routes that conflict with maintaining sensitive wildlife habitat would be mitigated to achieve DFC. Mitigation would include, but not be limited to the following:

- route closure,
- seasonal use restrictions,
- rerouting,
- vehicle type restrictions,
- vehicle speed restrictions, and
- other mitigation suitable to the nature of the conflict.

Administrative access may be allowed by law enforcement and AGFD and USFWS staff for natural resource management. AGFD's use of motorized and mechanized equipment off designated routes is considered an administrative use and will be allowed in suitable locations (as agreed to by BLM and AGFD) for such purposes including, but not limited to the following:

- water supplementation,
- collar retrieval,
- capture and release of wildlife, and
- maintenance, repair, and building or rebuilding of wildlife waters.

Administrative Actions - Wildlife Habitat Across All Areas

Through cooperative partnerships with AGFD and other State and private entities, BLM would conserve, enhance, and restore wildlife habitats, including natural springs, wetlands, and streams.

Continue to implement wildlife habitat management through wildlife HMPs, developed in cooperation with AGFD to meet the requirements of the Sikes Act and address site-specific habitat management objectives. Existing HMPs would be used until new plans are developed.

Desired Future Condition – Invasive Species

The distribution and abundance of invasive plants and animals will be limited to current levels and through active management, the impact of invasive species on native ecosystems will be reduced from current levels.

Management Actions – Invasive Species

Adverse impacts to natural plant and animal communities from invasive species would be reduced. Efforts to control or eradicate invasive wildlife species would be carried out in cooperation and collaboration with AGFD or suitable weed management associations or other organizations.

Nonintrusive, non-native plant species would be considered suitable where native species:

- are not available,
- are not economically feasible,
- cannot achieve ecological objectives as well as non-native species, and
- cannot compete with already established non-native species.

The use and perpetuation of native plant species would be emphasized when restoring or rehabilitating disturbed or degraded rangelands.

Administrative Actions – Invasive Species

A monitoring, management, and educational program would be established to reduce the spread of plants classified as invasive by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

2.7.1.5 Cultural Resources

Land Use Allocation

Allocate sites to one or more of the six use categories defined in BLM's Manual 8110.4:

- scientific use,
- conservation for future use,
- traditional use,
- public use,
- experimental use, and
- discharged from management.

Manage sites in accordance with the guidelines in Manual 8110.4. See Appendix E for information on these use categories.

Permit scientific and historical studies by qualified researchers at selected sites allocated to scientific use. The highest priority for study will be assigned to significant sites that are threatened by vandalism or other types of disturbance. Scientific studies will be guided by historic contexts and research designs. Priorities will also emphasize sites that have the potential to yield important information, as defined in approved research designs.

Allocate selected sites to public use for long-term preservation and public visitation. Consider the following factors in selecting sites suitable for this type of use:

- presence of aboveground features, such as structures or rock art, that are of interest to the public and are amenable to interpretive development,
- the condition of the site and the feasibility of treating or stabilizing selected areas to withstand visitation,
- accessibility to travel routes, and
- visitor safety.

Management Actions

Design and maintain facilities to preserve the visual integrity of cultural resource settings and cultural landscapes consistent with VRM objectives established in the RMP.

Implement physical and administrative protection measures to stop, limit, or repair damage and vandalism to sites. A variety of protection measures, described in BLM's Manual 8140, may be used to protect the integrity of sites at risk:

- closing routes,
- restricting grazing or other uses,
- building fences or other barriers,
- installing erosion control devices,
- placing soil into exposed vandal pits or rooms,
- erecting signs, and
- repairing, shoring up, or stabilizing walls or other parts of structures.

Structural and material stabilization techniques introduce chemical, mechanical, or structural elements to retard the deterioration of cultural resources.

Install and maintain protective signs, including carsonite posts, with the message of the Arizona Site Steward Program on sites that are vulnerable to vandalism. Install protective

signs in a manner to avoid drawing attention to sites.

In evaluating project designs and proposed activities, seek to avoid disturbing or removing Native American human remains and associated items. Avoid directing site visitors toward areas where these items could be observed or disturbed.

Include stipulations in Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) to ensure that commercial tour operations will not damage cultural resources. Require tour operators to report any new vandalism or damage to sites.

Limit groups visiting archaeological sites to 25 people/site at a time. BLM may permit larger groups on a case-by-case basis for educational events, if it implements mitigation to minimize adverse impacts.

Administrative Actions

Ensure that all proposed undertakings and authorizations are reviewed and conducted in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), and other applicable laws.

Continue to consult with Indian tribes to identify places of traditional importance and associated access needs. Develop measures for managing and protecting places that might be identified by tribes during the life of the plan.

Complete documentary research and oral histories to gain a better understanding of cultural resources from homesteading, mining, ranching, and other historical period activities.

Restrict public information about the locations of sites that are not allocated to public use (selected for interpretive and educational uses).

Establish collaborative research partnerships with academic institutions, professional and non-profit organizations, and avocational organizations. Provide opportunities for volunteer training and participation in site documentation, research, protection, and educational projects.

Continue to participate in Arizona Archaeology Awareness Month events, along with other educational outreach that highlights the values of cultural heritage resources and the need to protect these resources.

Provide opportunities for tribal participation in research and interpretation.

Honor tribal requests to protect the confidentiality of sensitive information, to the extent permitted by law.

Complete Class II (sample) and Class III (intensive) field inventories to identify cultural resources and evaluate the condition of sites, in accordance with Section 110 of the NHPA. Use the information obtained through these surveys to allocate sites to proper use categories, develop protection measures, and integrate survey results into research designs and interpretation efforts.

Map and document sites before interpretive development for public use, to the extent needed to

- preserve archaeological data,
- plan for interpretive facilities, and
- provide a baseline condition assessment for monitoring changes resulting from visitor use.

Complete interpretive plans for sites allocated to public use through interpretive development.

Implement procedures for systematic monitoring of all sites developed or authorized for public visitation. Restrict visitor access or group tours to prevent any damage from visitor use.

Require that holders of SRPs give site visitors suitable educational information on archaeological site etiquette and resource conservation.

2.7.1.6 Wilderness Characteristics

Land Use Allocation

Lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics.

This allocation complies with guidance in Instruction Memorandum (IM) 2003-275 Change 1, (Appendix I). This allocation is managed consistently with the directions in the referenced IM to maintain or enhance the landscape values described in Attachment 1 of that IM (which can be found in Appendix I).

Desired Future Condition

Lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics contain few human intrusions with primitive and natural landscape settings, providing self-reliant and self-directed visitor experiences. These characteristics have been determined to be reasonably present and of sufficient value (condition, uniqueness, relevance, importance) and need (trend, risk), and to be practical to manage. Wildlife populations and habitat are recognized as important aspects of the naturalness and will be actively managed.

Lands and resources within these areas exhibit a high degree of naturalness. These areas are affected mainly by the forces of nature, and the imprint of human activity is substantially unnoticeable. Naturalness is evaluated by the following:

- occurrence of vehicle routes, fences, wildlife, and range facilities,
- nature and extent of landscape modifications,
- presence of native plant and wildlife communities, and
- habitat connectivity.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation may be present. The use of the area will generally be through non-motorized and non-mechanical means. Motorized use that does not degrade resources or conflict with DFC may be allowed on designated routes. Non-motorized conveyances (such as bicycles) will be allowed on designated trails. There will be no or minimal developed recreation facilities. Lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics will provide opportunities for visitor adventure, challenge, solitude, and discovery. Recreation settings and associated experiences will be semi-primitive non-motorized to primitive with limited areas of semi-primitive motorized around designated vehicle routes. Hunting, hiking, backpacking, camping, horseback riding, mountain bicycling, wildlife observation, photography, and historic/cultural study will be the chief activities with foot or horseback the customary means of travel.

Non-motorized access may include developing some trails, or simply marking foot routes with posts for minimal disturbance of the ground surface. Installing trails may be considered, where needed; to protect resources, to ensure public safety, or to advance public education and interpretation of objectives.

The rapid urbanization of central Arizona is expected to continue and demands on public lands are expected to increase. During the life of the plan, lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics will constitute some of the remaining large unaltered natural vistas within near proximity to the urbanizing areas. This "open space" would be maintained by careful project planning and design to minimize the visual intrusion of any management activity.

Management Actions

Lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics would be managed to protect and enhance primitive characteristics. The management actions are designed to

- maintain low interaction among users,

- reveal minimal evidence of other visitors, and
- provide a high probability of experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of other humans.

Lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics would be managed to have limited evidence of human-induced management restrictions and controls, except the minimum needed to protect resources. Visitors would be encouraged to practice Leave No Trace skills to avoid human-induced impacts.

Motorized vehicle routes within lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics would be designated in the RMP and shown on maps. Vehicle routes would be mitigated to resolve conflicts with cultural, biological, or other resources to achieve DFC objectives (which may allow for motorized access in these areas). Mitigation measures may include the following:

- rerouting conflicting route segments,
- engineering to reduce conflicts ,
- limiting seasons of use, vehicle type, vehicle speed, or vehicle numbers, and
- closing routes.

BLM would consider building new routes only as a mitigation measure for route and resource conflicts or where necessary to meet approved administrative actions.

Sites and areas affected by human activities would be reclaimed when such locales or sites are no longer needed by authorized land uses.

Commercial recreation and vending operations, guided hunt and associated activities, and concession leases would be allowed when such activities conform to to the following:

- land use plan objectives,
- desired recreation settings,
- VRM classes, and
- other social and managerial settings.

AGFD's use of motorized and mechanized equipment off designated routes is considered an administrative use and will be allowed in suitable locations (as agreed to by BLM and AGFD) for such purposes including, but not limited to the following:

- water supplementation,
- collar retrieval,
- capture and release of wildlife, and
- maintenance, repair, and building or rebuilding of wildlife waters.

Discretionary surface-disturbing activities not compatible with achieving the DFC above or specifically described for each area would be prohibited.

Administrative Actions

Develop and adopt measurement standards for limits of acceptable change for the following:

- trail conditions,
- visitor-to-visitor encounters,
- vegetation changes,
- applying Arizona Land Health Standards, and
- approved motorized and mechanized activities.

A permit system would be applied, if needed, for the following purposes:

- to conserve solitude and primitive recreation opportunities,
- to preserve desired social and managerial settings,
- to safeguard resources, and
- to mitigate resource impacts.

Any permit system would include coordination with other State and Federal entities that issue use permits on Federal lands to assure that authorized permittees have fair and reasonable access to their permitted activity. For example, should a permit system be implemented, BLM will coordinate with AGFD to enable coordination of access for hunters with valid

hunting licenses and permits for the affected hunting unit.

2.7.1.7 Paleontological Resources

Desired Future Condition

Paleontological resources will be managed for their scientific, educational, recreation values, and adverse impacts to these resources will be mitigated. BLM would preserve and protect significant vertebrate paleontological resources for present and future generations. Scientifically significant invertebrates (to be determined by a qualified paleontologist) would also be protected.

Land Use Allocations

Areas would be classified according to their potential to contain vertebrate fossils or noteworthy occurrences of invertebrate or plant fossils. Paleontological Sensitivity Classes are listed in Table 2-6.

Management Actions

BLM would identify and protect significant fossils and allow for scientific research at paleontological sites, in accordance with permitting procedures.

Should paleontological resources be discovered within the planning area, the sites would be evaluated for sensitivity. The sites would then be classified and managed consistent with the land use allocation classifications described above.

Table 2-6. Paleontological Sensitivity Classes

Classification	Definition
Class 1 (Low sensitivity)	Igneous and metamorphic geologic units and sedimentary geologic units where vertebrate fossils or uncommon invertebrate fossils are unlikely to occur.
Class 2 (Moderate sensitivity)	Sedimentary geologic units that are known to contain or have unknown potential to contain fossils that vary in significance, abundance, and predictable occurrence.
Class 3 (Moderate sensitivity)	Areas where geologic units are known to contain fossils but have little or no risk of human-caused adverse impacts or low risk of natural degradation.
Class 4 (High sensitivity)	Areas where geologic units regularly and predictably contain vertebrate fossils or uncommon invertebrate fossils and are at risk of natural degradation or human-caused adverse impacts.

Administrative Actions

BLM would include paleontological resources in its cultural resources public education programs. These programs would:

- provide information directly related to procedures to be followed if fossils are found, and
- specify fines for removing fossils from BLM-administered lands.

BLM would analyze the potential for paleontological resources and do the following:

- Develop a sensitivity map for paleontological resources and require

screening for all projects against potential for the project to impact vertebrate fossils or noteworthy occurrences of invertebrate or plant fossils.
- Allocate through plan amendment if appropriate, all lands within the planning areas as Paleontological Sensitivity Class One, Two, Three, or Four as described in Table 2-6.
- Evaluate newly found vertebrate localities to determine their importance and the potential threat of loss to determine an adequate monitoring program.

2.7.1.8 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

Visual Resource Management Areas

Desired Future Conditions

As defined in BLM's Handbook H-8410-1, Visual Resource Inventory, (section B, one through four) objectives for the four VRM classes are described below:

VRM Class I Objective: The objective of this class is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. This class provides for natural ecological changes, but it does not preclude very limited management activity. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.

VRM Class II Objective: The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

VRM Class III Objective: The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

VRM Class IV Objectives: The objective of this class is to provide for management activities that require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer's attention. Every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements.

Management Actions

Project proposals that could result in surface disturbance or may contain visible components would be analyzed using procedures outlined in BLM Handbook H-8431-1, Visual Contrast Rating, to determine their conformance with the VRM allocation of the project area. If necessary, modifications would be made to the project, including design changes or a change of location, for the project to meet the VRM Class objective. In any case, regardless of VRM Class, an effort will be made to make any project proposal with a visible component as visually compatible with its surroundings as practical.

2.7.1.9 Rangeland Management

The following actions would apply to Alternatives in which grazing is permitted. They would also apply to grazing management in the interim period from when grazing is prohibited to the final removal of livestock:

BLM has implemented the application of Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration (Land Health Standards). Allotment evaluations to determine if grazing practices are achieving the desired standards are conducted before the grazing permit or lease is renewed. Changes in grazing

practices needed to achieve the standards, are then incorporated in the stipulations of the reissued permit or lease. Rest-rotation, deferred-rotation, seasonal or short-duration use, or other management systems may be implemented where needs are identified through monitoring. Monitoring will be used to assess the effectiveness of changes brought about by the new management practices.

Exceptions to Standard 1 and 2 of the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health may occur on ecological sites or stream reaches where a change in existing vegetation is physically, biologically, or economically impractical.

Public Lands without a grazing permit or lease authorization would remain unauthorized for livestock grazing.

Where livestock grazing is permitted, range improvements needed for proper management of the grazing program would be determined and completed, including repair and/or installation of fences, cattle guards, water developments, and vehicle routes needed to access improvement sites. These improvements would be conducted using a variety of mechanical equipment.

Vehicular access to repair range improvements by the grazing permittee or lessee would be considered administrative access. Use of vehicle routes closed to public use but limited to administrative uses would be allowed to maintain or repair range improvements. Off-route vehicular use would require prior authorization unless the needed access is to resolve an immediate risk to human health, safety, or property.

One-time travel off designated routes to access or retrieve; sick or injured livestock would be authorized as an administrative use for transporting the animal to obtain medical help. Retiring livestock grazing from an allotment would be considered when those lands are devoted to a public purpose that precludes continued livestock grazing.

Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health - Guidelines for Grazing Administration

The Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration are a series of management practices used to ensure that grazing meets the standards for rangeland health, which are referred to in this plan as Land Health Standards. The following guidelines apply to all areas where grazing occurs.

Guidelines for Standard One

1-1. Management activities will maintain or promote ground cover that will provide for infiltration, permeability, soil moisture storage, and soil stability appropriate for the ecological sites within MUs. The ground cover should maintain soil organisms, plants, and animals; to support the hydrologic and nutrient cycles and energy flow. Ground cover and signs of erosion are surrogate measures for hydrologic and nutrient cycles, and energy flow.

1-2. When grazing practices alone are not likely to restore areas of low infiltration or permeability, land management treatments may be designed and implemented to attain improvement.

Guidelines for Standard Two

2-1. Management practices maintain or promote sufficient vegetation to maintain, improve or restore riparian-wetland functions of energy dissipation, sediment capture, groundwater recharge, and stream bank stability, thus promoting stream channel morphology (e.g. gradient, width/depth ratio, channel roughness, and sinuosity), and functions suitable to climate and landform.

2-2. New facilities are located away from riparian-wetland areas if they conflict with achieving or maintaining riparian-wetland function. Existing facilities are used in a way that does not conflict with riparian-wetland functions or are relocated or modified when incompatible with these functions.

2-3. The development of springs, seeps, or other projects affecting water, and associated resources will be designed to protect ecological functions and processes.

Guidelines for Standard Three

3-1. The use and perpetuation of native species will be emphasized. When restoring or rehabilitating disturbed or degraded rangelands, nonintrusive, non-native plant species are suitable for use where native species (a) are not available, (b) are not economically feasible, (c) cannot achieve ecological objectives as well as non-native species, and/or (d) cannot compete with already established non-native species.

3-2. Conservation of Federal threatened or endangered, proposed, candidate, and other special status species is promoted by maintaining or restoring their habitats.

3-3. Management practices maintain, restore, or enhance water quality in conformance with State or Federal standards.

3-4. Intensity, season and frequency of use, and distribution of grazing use should provide for growth and reproduction of plant species needed to reach DPC (Desired Plant Community) objectives.

3-5. Grazing on designated ephemeral (annual and perennial) rangeland may be authorized if the following conditions are met:

- Ephemeral vegetation is present in draws, washes, and under shrubs, and has grown to useable levels at the time grazing begins; as well as sufficient surface and subsurface soil moisture exists for continued plant growth.
- Serviceable waters can provide for proper grazing distribution.
- Sufficient annual vegetation will remain on site to satisfy other resource concerns (e.g. watershed, wildlife, wild horses, and burros).
- Monitoring is conducted during grazing to determine if objectives are being met.

3-6. Management practices will target populations of noxious weeds that can be controlled or eliminated by approved methods.

3-7. Management practices to achieve DPCs will consider protecting and conserving known cultural resources, including historical sites, prehistoric sites, and plants of significance to Native American people.

DPC objectives would be quantified for each allotment through the rangeland monitoring and evaluation process. Ecological site descriptions available through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and other data will be used as a guide for addressing site capabilities and potentials for change over time. These DPC objectives are vegetation values that BLM is managing over the long term. Once established, DPC objectives would be updated and monitored by the use of indicators for Land Health Standard Three.

Apply management actions outlined in the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration (Land Health Standards) to recognize and correct potential erosion problems that could degrade other resources, with prioritized emphasis on sites that might directly affect species that have been listed as threatened, endangered, or candidate by the USFWS.

2.7.1.10 Fire Management

Desired Future Conditions

- Fire is recognized as a natural process in fire-adapted ecosystems and is used to achieve objectives for other resources.
- Fuels in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) are maintained at non-hazardous levels to provide for public and firefighter safety.
- Prescribed fire complies with Federal and State air quality regulations.
- Each vegetation community is maintained within its natural range of

variation in plant composition, structure, and function, and fuel loads are maintained below levels that are considered to be hazardous (See Table 2-7 and Appendix J for more information on each vegetation community).
- DFCs will be coordinated with the rangeland standard and guidelines allotment evaluations.

Land Use Allocation

Under the proposed action, BLM-administered public lands would be assigned to one of the following two land use allocations for fire management (Table 2-7).

Allocation One - Wildland Fire Use:

Areas suitable for wildland fire use for resource management benefit.

Where wildland fire is desired, few or no constraints exist on its use, and conditions are suitable, unplanned and planned wildfire may be used to achieve desired objectives such as the following:

- to improve vegetation, wildlife habitat, or watershed conditions,
- to maintain non-hazardous levels of fuels,
- to reduce the hazardous effects of unplanned wildland fires, and
- to meet resource objectives.

Where fuel loading is high but conditions are not initially suitable for wildland fire, fuel loads are reduced by mechanical, chemical, or biological means to reduce hazardous fuel levels and meet resource objectives (includes WUI areas).

Management Actions

Use suitable tools for reducing hazardous fuels, including prescribed burning, wildland fire use, and mechanical methods. Methods can include the following:

- chainsaws,
- motorized equipment for crushing brush,
- tractor and hand piling,
- thinning and pruning, and
- treatments selected on a site-specific case that are ecologically suitable and cost effective.

Land Use Allocation

Allocation Two - Non Wildland Fire Use:

Areas not suitable for wildland fire use for resource benefit.

This allocation includes areas such as the following where mitigation and suppression are required to prevent direct threats to life or property:

- areas where fire historically never played a large role in developing and maintaining the ecosystem,
- areas where intervals between fires were very long, and
- areas (including some WUI areas) where an unplanned ignition could harm the ecosystem unless some form of mitigation is applied.

Mitigation may include mechanical, biological, chemical, or prescribed fire means to maintain non-hazardous levels of fuels, reduce the hazardous effects of unplanned wildland fires, and meet resource objectives.

The allocation of lands is based on the DFC of vegetation communities, ecological conditions, and ecological risks. The allocation of lands is determined by contrasting current and historical conditions and ecological risks of any changes (Map 2-93 Fire Land Use Allocation). The condition class concept helps describe changes in key ecosystem components such as species composition, structural stage, stand age, canopy closure, and fuel loadings. BLM fire management plans will include the two allocations and identify areas for including fire use and mechanical, biological, or chemical means to

- maintain non-hazardous levels of fuels,
- reduce the hazardous effects of unplanned wildland fires, and
- meet resource objectives.

Fire management plans will also determine which areas will be excluded from fire (through fire suppression) and which will receive chemical, mechanical, or biological treatments.

Management Actions

In areas not suitable for fire, BLM would implement programs to reduce unwanted ignitions and emphasize prevention, detection, and rapid suppression response.

In areas not suitable for fire where fuel loading is high, BLM would use biological, mechanical, or chemical treatments and some prescribed fire to maintain non-hazardous levels of fuels and meet resource objectives.

In areas suitable for fire where fuel loading is high and current conditions constrain fire use, BLM would emphasize prevention and mitigation programs to reduce unwanted fire ignitions and use mechanical, biological, or chemical treatments to mitigate the fuel loadings and meet resource objectives.

In areas suitable for fire where conditions allow, BLM would do the following:

- allow naturally ignited wildland fire,
- use prescribed fire and a combination of biological, mechanical, and chemical treatments to maintain nonhazardous levels of fuels,
- reduce the hazardous effects of unplanned wildland fires, and
- meet resource objectives.

In areas suitable for fire, BLM would monitor existing air quality levels and weather conditions to determine which prescribed fires can be ignited and which, if any, must be delayed to ensure that air quality meets Federal and State standards. If air quality approaches unhealthy levels, BLM would delay igniting prescribed fires.

In addition to both allocations, to reduce human-caused fires, BLM would undertake education, enforcement, and administrative fire prevention mitigation measures. Education measures would include the following:

- provide media information, including a signing program,
- give the public information on the natural role of fire within local ecosystems, and
- participate in fairs, parades, and public contacts.

Enforcement would train employees interested in determining the cause of fires. Administration would include expanded prevention and education programs with cooperator agencies.

For all fire management activities (wildfire suppression; appropriately managed wildfire use; prescribed fire; and mechanical, chemical, and biological vegetation treatments), conservation measures would be implemented as part of the proposed action to provide statewide consistency in reducing the effects of fire management on federally protected (threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate) species (see Appendix P).

Use suitable tools for reducing hazardous fuels, including prescribed burning, wildland fires, and mechanical methods. Methods can include chainsaws, motorized equipment for crushing brush, tractors and hand piling, thinning and pruning, and treatments that are selected on a site-specific basis and are ecologically suitable and cost effective.

Conservation measures noted as "recommended" are discretionary for implementation but are recommended to help minimize effects to federally protected species. Incorporated here by reference are procedures within the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (Task Group 2004), including future updates, relevant to fire

operations that may affect federally protected species or their habitat.

Firefighter and public safety are the first priority in every fire management activity. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources must be based on the following:

- values to be protected,
- human health and safety, and
- costs of protection (BLM 2001b).

Implementing, to the extent possible, the following conservation measures during fire suppression and during proposed fire management activities, as required, would minimize or eliminate the effects to federally protected species and habitats.

During fire suppression resource advisors may be designated to coordinate concerns on federally protected species and to serve as liaison between the field office manager and the incident commander and the incident management team. Resource advisors will also serve as field contact representatives responsible for coordinating with the USFWS. Resource advisors will have the needed information on federally protected species and habitats in the area and the available conservation measures for the species. They will be briefed on the intended suppression actions for the fire and will provide input on which conservation measures are suitable within the standard constraints of safety and operational procedures. The incident commander has the final decision making authority on implementation of conservation measures during fire suppression.

Conflicts may occur in attempting to implement all conservation measures for every species potentially affected by a particular activity, because of the number of species within the action area for the proposed statewide land use plan amendment (Dynamac Corporation 2004); and the variety of fire suppression and proposed fire management activities.

Implementing these conservation measures would depend on:

- the number of federally protected species and
- their individual life histories or habitat requirements within a particular location that is being affected by either fire suppression or a proposed fire management activity.

Conflicts could particularly arise from timing restrictions on fuel treatment if the ranges of several species with differing restrictions overlap. It could; therefore, be impossible to effectively implement the activity. Resource advisors (in coordination with USFWS), fire management officers, incident commanders, and other resource specialists would need to coordinate to determine which conservation measures would be implemented during a particular activity. If conservation measures for a species cannot be implemented, BLM would be required to initiate Section 7 consultation with USFWS for that activity.

BLM will update local fire management plans to include site-specific actions for managing wildfire and fuels in accordance with the new Federal fire policies, based on guidance provided in the decision records for this statewide land use plan amendment (Dynamac Corporation 2004). These plans will be coordinated with USFWS and the AGFD to address site-specific concerns for federally protected species. These plans will incorporate the conservation measures included in this statewide land use plan amendment for federally protected species occurring within each fire management zone. BLM will consult with USFWS on these project-level plans, as needed.

Categories A, B, C, and D, polygons are referenced in the 1998 Fire Management Plan (FMP). The new FMP planning process will be completed in 2006 and will have fire management units containing polygons based on the following:

- vegetation communities,
- fire regime condition classes, and
- closeness to urban interface areas.

As a fuels management tool, BLM uses prescribed fire and mechanical treatment to maintain semi-desert grasslands in Agua Fria National Monument. BLM has designated 24 burn units, encompassing 50,000 acres, to receive treatment on a 5- to 10-year rotation. Prescribed fire in this area is coordinated closely with similar projects conducted by Prescott and Tonto National Forests to provide an ecosystem-wide effort to maintain the Agua Fria grasslands.

Resource objectives under the current fire management plan include the following:

- reducing woody species,
- increasing ground cover,
- increasing perennial grass cover and production,
- increasing annual grass and forb production, and
- improving pronghorn antelope habitat.

Prescribed fire is used in the Weaver Mountains within the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area. The Weaver Mountain Hazard Fuels Reduction Project was developed to treat hazard fuel accumulations, which are located on 14,000 acres of BLM, State, and private lands in chaparral vegetation 17 miles north of Wickenburg. Project objectives are (1) to reduce the risk of large, catastrophic wildfire and (2) to maximize benefits to wildlife and livestock by reducing dense chaparral cover by 30 percent to 80 percent. During prescribed burning about 1,000 acres of chaparral will be treated annually over the next 5 to 10 years to create mosaic patterns in the mixed age class chaparral community throughout the 14,000 acre project area.

Special Area Designations

Fire management activities in Agua Fria National Monument would ensure that no adverse effects occur to the resources listed in the proclamation (Appendix A) as the reasons for establishing the area.

In wilderness areas, when suppression actions are required, minimum impact suppression tactics (MIST, Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations [Task Group 2004]) would be applied and coordinated with wilderness area management objectives and guidelines.

Fire management activities along national historic trails would be conducted to ensure that no adverse effects occur to resources listed in the legislation designating the trail.

Fire management efforts along river segments recommended as eligible for designation under the WSR Act would use measures that avoid degrading the outstandingly remarkable values that qualify the rivers for designation.

ACECs and back country byways are established in land use plans. BLM would consider the desired conditions and management prescriptions for these special area designations in implementing fire management activities.

Wildfires resulting from natural fire starts (lightning) from an adjoining ownership may be allowed to cross jurisdictional boundaries if the fire meets predetermined, prescription criteria, and the ownerships have an agreement.

2.7.2 Management Common to Agua Fria National Monument

2.7.2.1 Management Units

The size and complexity of Agua Fria National Monument do not require subdivision into MUs. For this analysis the monument is a MU in and of itself.

2.7.2.2 Special Area Designations

Management Actions

Continue to manage the suitable WSR proposals for non-impairment (Map 2-2).

Remove the designations of Larry Canyon and Perry Mesa ACECs because the monument proclamation (Appendix A) provides for a higher level of protection and management across a more extensive landscape, rendering these designations obsolete.

2.7.2.3 Lands and Realty

In accordance with the FLPMA and the national monument proclamation (Appendix A), no lands within the monument may be disposed of or exchanged. Consider acquiring non-Federal lands within the monument if they become available from a willing seller. Upon acquisition, these lands would automatically become a part of the monument. Consider acquiring adjacent non-Federal lands that would enhance monument values if they become available from a willing seller.

Land Use Allocations

Utility and Transportation Corridors and Communication Sites

Management Actions

New utility corridors, whether interstate, intrastate, or local, would not conform to the national monument's proclamation. Therefore, such corridors within the monument would not be considered.

New transportation corridors, whether interstate, intrastate, or local, would not conform to the proclamation. Therefore, such corridors within the monument would not be considered.

New BLM communication site areas designated in advance of demand would not conform with the proclamation. Therefore, new communication site areas within the monument would not be considered.

Access to existing utilities on existing vehicle routes is considered an administrative use and is allowed. Continued maintenance of authorized facilities is also allowed with suitable mitigation to minimize affects to monument resources. Design maintenance of vehicle routes for access to correct hazardous or unsafe conditions, but keep them to the smallest size and condition necessary to provide access.

2.7.2.4 Soil, Air, and Water Resources

Management Actions

Maintain and protect water quantity and quality, in springs and streams.

Prohibit surface water diversions and groundwater pumping that removes water from the monument or adversely affects the monument's values.

Collaborate with State and local entities to protect surface and subsurface water in the monument.

Administrative Actions

Develop and implement a water quality/quantity monitoring program to establish baseline data needed to quantify the Federal reserved water right for the monument. monitoring may include the following:

- periodic measurements of spring and stream flows,
- periodic measurements of water levels in selected wells, and
- regular sampling and water quality analysis of surface water throughout the monument.

2.7.2.5 Biological Resources

Management Actions

Fuels reduction projects may include provisions for permitting firewood collection on a case-by-case basis.

Written authorization from the monument manager is needed for collecting plant materials for scientific purposes.

Prohibit all other vegetation collection or removal.

2.7.2.6 Cultural Resources

Land Use Allocations

The following sites would be allocated to the category of "conservation for future use":

- Rattlesnake Pueblo and other prehistoric masonry structures in the back country region south of Perry Tank Canyon,
- all rock art sites larger than a single, isolated boulder, and
- the historic stone features at Arizona N:16:70 (MNA).

For more information on this use category and associated actions, see Appendix E.

Allocate to scientific use sites that would allow for study under approved research plans.

The use category of "discharged from management" would be applied in a limited manner, consistent with the protection of monument resources and the cultural landscape of the Perry Mesa National Register District. The allocation of "discharged from management" would be applied mainly to properties that have lost their heritage values through the following:

- damage or destruction by natural processes,
- unauthorized activities, and
- actions conducted before the monument was established (2000).

Selected sites would be allocated to public use for long-term preservation and public visitation. See Appendix E for more information on this use category.

Management Actions

At sites allocated to conservation for future use, scientific studies would be limited to surveys, mapping, and other noninvasive documentation methods. Preserve the integrity of these sites and their settings through use restrictions and protective measures.

Scientific use allocations would allow for the following:

- detailed documentation through such techniques as mapping, photography, photogrammetry, and remote sensing,
- sample collections of artifacts,
- collections of samples for radiocarbon, archaeomagnetic, pollen, and flotation analyses, and
- limited excavations.

Studies may be conducted for the following purposes:

- to obtain critical data relevant to research objectives,
- to assess site protection and stabilization needs, and
- to support interpretive planning for properties also allocated to public use.

Research plans would ensure that most architectural features and cultural deposits remain intact at habitation sites with multiple rooms. Protection would remain a priority for sites that have been allocated to scientific uses.

Assign a high priority for detailed documentation to the following sites:

- Pueblo la Plata, Fort Silver, Baby Canyon Pueblo, and Pueblo Pato.
- Rock art sites on Black Mesa and along Baby Canyon and Perry Tank Canyon on Perry Mesa.
- The remnants of the historic Richinbar Mine water delivery system in the Agua Fria River Canyon.

Allocate specific sites to public use within Special Cultural Resource Management Areas. The degrees of interpretive development within these areas would be consistent with relatively High or Moderate levels of use. Sites would not be allocated to public use within areas set aside for low use. Actions that could be implemented at or near selected sites in each level of use area are described as follows.

Potential Management Actions for Special Cultural Resource Management Areas

High Public Use

- Building visitor facilities, which may include gravel parking areas, restrooms, picnic tables, trash receptacles, and benches.
- Improving routes with signs installed along vehicle routes to direct visitors to interpreted sites and visitor facilities. Routes would not be paved.
- Closing routes within 1/4 to 1/2 mile of sites, with single- and two-track routes converted to non-motorized use to improve visitor flow and site protection.
- Establishing hardened walking trails.
- Installing interpretive signs and visitor register boxes.
- Conducting limited excavations, backfilling pueblo rooms, or stabilizing walls to protect or display portions of sites.
- Establishing interpretive loop trails connecting archaeological sites and natural features. Non-motorized or motorized trail systems could be linked to sites in Tonto National Forest.
- Preparing brochures and other educational materials or programs focused on sites.
- Showing site locations on maps, monument brochures, and BLM's websites.
- Authorizing commercial and other group tours, conducted in accordance with special SRPs.

Moderate Public Use

- Installing interpretive signs and visitor register boxes.
- Establishing non-motorized trails, including hardened walking trails.
- Closing existing trails within 1/4 to 1/2 mile from sites to vehicles and converting to non-motorized use to improve site protection.
- Producing fact sheets or brochures.
- Providing limited publicity and limited access for commercial tours.
- Placing emphasis on conveying an experience of discovery.

Low Public Use

- Allocating no sites to public use for interpretive development.
- Installing no interpretive signs or facilities.
- Building no trails.
- Developing no fact sheets or interpretive media about specific sites.
- Issuing no special recreation permits for commercial tours.
- Publicizing and showing no sites on maps and brochures.
- Allowing hikers and other visitors to experience a sense of discovery by encountering and observing undeveloped sites in pristine settings.

Administrative Actions

Conduct field inventories to identify significant resources in the geographic “data gap” north of Perry Mesa.

Conduct a Class III survey of 500 acres at the north end of Black Mesa to complete a 100 percent level of inventory coverage of the mesa, which north of Sunset Canyon.

Conduct Class III surveys of corridors at least 200-feet wide along 20 miles of Bloody Basin Road, Forest Road 14, and other regularly used routes on Perry Mesa.

Conduct Class III surveys of corridors at least 1/4 mile wide totaling 12 miles along the Agua Fria River, Silver Creek, Sycamore Creek, Indian Creek, and Ash Creek.

Conduct Class III surveys of at least 2,000 acres surrounding Pueblo la Plata, Baby Canyon Pueblo, and Pueblo Pato.

Continue to monitor at least 15 pueblo villages and rock art sites that are at greatest risk from vandalism, with help from partners who may include the Civil Air Patrol and volunteers from the Arizona Site Steward Program. Develop and implement systematic monitoring protocols for selected sites.

Focus monitoring on rock art sites and habitation sites with 20 or more rooms, particularly sites within 1/2 mile of travel routes. This strategy conforms to the results of a vandalism study by BLM and Tonto National Forest (Ahlstrom and others 1992).

Develop and maintain an active program of public education on the nature and values of the monument's cultural resources and the need to preserve them. Assist BLM's National Heritage Education Program and its partner organizations in pursuing and implementing grants to produce educational materials.

Actively pursue partnerships with professional and avocational organizations, academic institutions, tribal governments, and other entities for an orderly process of cultural research, recordation, and education. Coordinate with tribes and Tonto National Forest to prepare an ethno-historical study of the history of Native American uses and heritage values in the Perry Mesa National Register District.

2.7.2.7 Recreation Resources

Recreation within the monument boundaries would focus on activities or experiences that depend on the monument's resources and cannot readily be obtained elsewhere. Recreation uses that do not depend on the lands within the monument would be encouraged to move to other BLM lands. Emphasis would be placed on maintaining ecological resources by monitoring and managing recreation uses.

It is highly desirable that the public understand its role in sustaining the monument's archaeological, historical, and biological resources. Partnerships with adjacent communities would play a vital role in realizing the monument's DFC. Through these partnerships, members of these communities could explore ways to benefit socially and economically from public lands by offering needed services while still protecting monument values.

The emphasis of recreation management on monument lands would be guided under provisions presented for a Special Recreation Management Area containing three Recreation Management Zones (RMZs). The RMZ allocations are as follows: Front Country, Back Country, and Passage.

Land Use Allocation

Front Country Recreation Management Zone

Desired Future Condition

This zone will be the focal point for both motorized and non-motorized visitation, concentrating public access, recreation activities, development along major travel routes, and more intensively visited use areas. The Front Country RMZ will contain more developed opportunities, such as interpretive opportunities at popular sites, and supporting recreation facilities where intensive management is

needed. Management will place an emphasis on maintaining public access to the Front Country RMZ for public use, while maintaining the integrity of monument resources and values. Some areas may be designated as day use to promote visitor safety, and for resource protection.

Desired recreation opportunity experiences, and settings within the Front Country RMZ will range between rural, roaded-natural, and semi-primitive motorized. Both day use and overnight recreation uses will be acceptable unless otherwise specified in the land-use plan allocations. Day-use areas with more intensive use will be evaluated and sited within the Front Country.

Visual Resource Management DFCs related to Recreation can be found in section 2.7.2.8.

Management Actions

Provide interpretive sites, trails, overlooks and other amenities, visitor services where appropriate to protect monument resources, or enhance public use and enjoyment. Selected cultural sites allocated to public-use levels High and Moderate would be interpreted for public visitation/education. Access to improvements may include development of non-motorized trails of dirt, pavement, or other hard surfaces in order to assist visitor travel and minimize disturbance to cultural and natural resources.

Management Actions related to motorized and non-motorized recreation routes are described in the Transportation and Public Access section 2.7.2.10.

Land Use Allocation

Back Country Recreation Management Zone

Desired Future Condition

This zone will provide an undeveloped, primitive, and self-directed visitor experience and landscape setting without provisions for motorized or mechanical access. The management emphasis will be to preserve natural, undeveloped landscapes. Back Country will be managed to maintain a natural landscape character. The Back Country RMZ will provide opportunities for adventure, challenge, solitude, and discovery. Facilities will be minimal: provided only where vital for resource protection or public safety, or for approved administrative purposes. Facilities will generally be limited to trails, signs and other amenities, which are essential to the protection of monument resources. Maintaining the integrity of the monument values and resources is integral to any activity.

The desired recreation settings and associated experiences within this zone are mainly semi-primitive and non-motorized. The Back Country RMZ will offer non-motorized access and recreation opportunities within primitive settings, where self-reliant and properly equipped visitors can experience solitude. Encounters with other users will be lower than in the Front Country RMZ. Recreation experiences will be primitive, with hunting, hiking, backpacking, wildlife observation, cultural study, photography, and camping as the main activities. Trail and cross-country foot or horseback travel may be permitted.

Visual Resource Management DFCs related to Recreation can be found in section 2.7.2.8.

Management Actions

Management Actions related to motorized and non-motorized recreation routes are described in the Transportation and Public Access section 2.7.2.10.

Land Use Allocation

Passage Recreation Management Zone

Desired Future Condition

The Passage RMZ includes secondary travel routes and associated areas where visitor use will not be directed or encouraged but will be accommodated. Rudimentary facilities, such

as the following could be provided or available where needed for resource protection or public safety:

- toilets,
- designated or dispersed primitive campsites,
- scenic turnouts,
- kiosks,
- interpretive sites,
- signs,
- parking and staging areas, and
- trailheads.

This zone will center on the designated motorized travel and transportation network within the Back Country RMZ. The Passage RMZ will be 200 feet-wide, 100 feet on each side of the centerline of designated vehicle routes.

Desired recreation opportunities, experiences, and settings within the Passage RMZ will range from roaded-natural to semi-primitive motorized. Both day use and overnight recreation use will be acceptable, unless otherwise specified in the land use plan allocations. Archaeological sites allocated to Moderate public use could be interpreted within this zone.

Visual Resource Management DFCs related to Recreation can be found in section 2.7.2.8.

Management Actions

Management Actions related to motorized and non-motorized recreation routes are described in the Transportation and Public Access section 2.7.2.10.

General Recreation Management

Management Actions

Paintball activities would be prohibited within the monument.

Geocaching would be prohibited in areas managed for primitive or semi-primitive non-motorized settings. Caches would not be allowed within archaeological sites.

Equestrian use would be monitored and managed to meet Arizona Land Health Standards (Land Health Standards).

Horses or other stock animals would be prohibited at signed archaeological sites.

The use of weed-free feed would be encouraged to prevent introducing noxious, invasive weeds.

Camping

Camping would be limited to 14 days within the monument unless authorized by the monument's manager.

Collection of Natural Resources

Collecting all natural organic and natural inorganic materials (except for trash and litter) within the monument would be prohibited except for scientific, research and other pre-approved purposes by obtaining written approval from the field office's manager or the monument's manager. (See the Biological Resources discussion in the Management Common to Agua Fria National Monument section of this chapter.)

Adaptive Management

Adopt limits of acceptable change indicators and standards.

New forms of recreation opportunities and technological advances affecting the monument's values would be managed to protect the monument's resources. If use is perceived as inconsistent with or deleterious to the monument, this activity would be suspended until data is collected and analyzed and the monument's manager makes a final recommendation based on research findings.

Establish criteria through external collaboration to determine when monument's values are at risk

and to adjust on-the-ground management strategies and actions.

The current authority for collection of recreation user fees would not allow for collection of such fees on the Agua Fria National Monument. Under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004, P.L.108-447, fees may be charged at a site that has:

- clearly defined access points and area boundaries,
- substantial expenditure in operations and maintenance costs,
- significant investment in facilities (including roads and trails), and
- contains all of the following amenities:
    - a designated and developed parking area,
    - permanent toilet,
    - permanent trash receptacle,
    - kiosks,
    - picnic tables, and
    - security services commensurate with use levels.

Should the above criteria be met in the future, a study would be initiated to determine the need and feasibility of charging a recreation use fee.

Special Recreation Permits

Issuing of SRPs is at the discretion of BLM. BLM's evaluation of permit applications would be based on applicable laws and regulations and would conform to the monument proclamation (Appendix A). The decision to authorize a proposed use would depend on the following:

- potential resource impacts,
- conflicts with other users,
- health and safety concerns,
- past or present performance with BLM or other agencies,
- BLM's ability to timely process the application and effectively administer the permit, and
- the number of permits issued during the 365 days (one year) prior to permit application.

Leases and Land Use Permits

Recreation concession leases, long-term authorizations for the use of public lands, are authorized under 43 CFR 2920. BLM would evaluate concession leases on a case-by-case basis to determine whether they conform to the monument values. The proposed concession would need to conform to the managerial and social settings as described in the document such as recreation settings, VRM, and other special use area prescriptions.

Apiary permits would be prohibited within 1/4 mile of identified high-use areas, such as facilities, trailheads, and areas subject to SRP events, or at active scientific and research areas.

Commercial filming or still photography requiring a permit in accordance with Public Law 106-206 would be issued under the SRP guidelines when associated with permitted recreation activities. BLM would evaluate applications on a case-by-case basis to determine whether they are consistent with monument values. The fee schedule would be used as outlined in 43 CFR 2920 commercial filming regulations. Non-recreation related commercial filming will be managed by the appropriate 2920 guidelines.

Administrative Actions

Develop partnerships and identify sustaining recreation and tourism-based economic opportunities with communities.

Support collaborative efforts with the public on monument issues and efforts.

Post a toll-free phone number for the BLM's dispatch office on kiosks, maps, brochures, permits, and other public outreach conveyances to keep the public involved in reporting emergencies and criminal activities, including damage to the monument's resources.

SRP applicants would be strongly encouraged to have a working knowledge of Leave No Trace or Tread Lightly principles. Additionally,

applicants would be asked to incorporate Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly principles into their tour, program, or event activities.

To the greatest extent possible, all new construction and modifications for recreation facilities, outdoor developed areas, and any related programs and activities will be accessible to people with disabilities in accordance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, with later amendments. Guidance, requirements, and standards applicable to conform with the above legislation may be found in the following:

- Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards.
- Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines.
- ADA-ABA Accessibility Guidelines (use whichever guidance is most stringent).
- Proposed Outdoor Developed Areas Guidelines (U.S. Access Board found at www.access-board.gov and 43 CFR Part 17, Subpart E found at http://www.gpoacess.gov/cfr/index.htm)

Interpretation and Environmental Education

Pursue interpretation and environmental educational opportunities, outreach development, and implementation of on-site and off-site programs for adults and children.

Establish repository of photographs and images that will illustrate BLM's mission, including digital photographs and slides for program design.

Apply learning modalities and incorporate various learning styles in program design and delivery.

Encourage the use of multiple intelligence or other theories for program presentations.

Develop school curricula focusing on the BLM's mission with willing staff from schools, school districts, and other learning institutions.

Support existing educational and interpretive programs and initiatives such as Project Archaeology; Leave No Trace; Tread Lightly; Project Learning Tree; and other proven national, State, regional, and local programs.

Develop websites, brochures, maps, access guides, and information sheets to publicize OHV rules and regulations, with an emphasis on Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly practices.

2.7.2.8 Visual Resources

Desired Future Conditions related to achieving Recreation related DFCs by Recreation Management Zone

Front Country

Visual resource objectives would emphasize retaining the current natural vistas while allowing visually sensitive visitor-related development.

Back Country

Visual resource objectives in this zone will emphasize retaining the current visual landscapes and vistas.

Passage

VRM objectives would emphasize retaining the current natural vistas while allowing visually sensitive visitor-related development.

Management Actions

Manage the visual landscape to minimize visual impacts of authorized activities. As much as possible, maintain night skies free of light pollution. Work with surrounding communities and other agencies to minimize the impact of lighting.

2.7.2.9 Mineral Resource Management

Management Actions

All Federal minerals in Agua Fria National Monument would remain withdrawn or closed from all forms of location, sale, or leasing, including withdrawn from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws. Federal minerals are also withdrawn from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing and from disposal under the Mineral Materials Act. Mineral interests may be exchanged if such exchange furthers the protective purposes of the monument. Any mineral interests acquired by the United States within the monument are reserved as part of the monument and are subject to the aforementioned withdrawals.

For lands encumbered by mining claims, no activity beyond casual use, as defined in the 43 CFR 3809 regulations, is allowed without determination of valid existing rights. A mining plan of operations is required for any activities beyond casual use.

2.7.2.10 Transportation and Public Access

Land Use Allocations

Motorized and mechanized uses on all monument lands will be Limited to Designated Routes only.

Limited to Designated Routes = 70,900 acres

Desired Future Conditions

Define, designate, implement, and monitor a comprehensive travel management network affording a range of high-quality and diverse motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities. The network would consist of a system of areas, roads, routes and/or trails. The designated travel management network and associated recreation opportunities would be consistent with all monument resource management objectives, recreation settings, and preservation of monument objects.

Management Actions

All motorized vehicles and mechanized equipment would be limited to designated routes, except in emergency situations. Motorized use shall keep within the designated route with reasonable use of the shoulder and immediate roadside, allowing for vehicle passage, emergency stopping, or parking unless otherwise posted.

Vehicle access on designated routes may be temporarily closed when weather creates muddy conditions. When conditions are such that travel by vehicle cannot be accomplished without damaging the existing roadway, departing the roadway and traveling across country, the route is closed until the roadway can once again support a vehicle without damage.

Cross-country motorized vehicle or mechanized equipment travel would be prohibited except in response to emergencies, or for BLM- or interagency-authorized tasks.

Mechanized or motorized vehicles would not be used off designated routes to retrieve game. Non-motorized wheeled game-carriers would be permitted to travel cross-country.

OHV use would be mitigated where it is determined to be inconsistent with established monument management objectives or such use is harming monument resources. Possible mitigation measures may include the following:

- closing routes,
- limiting seasonal use,
- limiting vehicle types, speeds, and noise,
- rerouting offending route segments, and
- modifying routes to reduce or eliminate conflicts.

Vehicle routes would receive the least amount of maintenance needed to provide desired access.

Many routes would be retained in a primitive condition to discourage excessive speeds so as to protect monument values and promote public safety.

Interconnecting routes could be developed where feasible and consistent with resource management goals and monument values. Vehicle routes may be developed if needed for protection of monument resources, visitor education and appreciation, and visitor safety.

All vehicle route construction must be consistent with other resource objectives, desired social and managerial settings, and VRM objectives.

Management Actions Specific to Recreation Management Zones

Front Country

Maintaining, enhancing or developing routes or trails for non-motorized and motorized visitor travel may be done within the Front Country RMZ if such actions further protect monument resources, ensure public safety, or to achieve land-use plan objectives. All closed vehicle routes may be considered for hiking, equestrian and/or mechanized trail development under the above guidelines.

Back Country

Non-motorized access may include development of some trails, or simply marking foot routes with fiberglass posts with minimal ground disturbance. Installation of trails may be considered where needed to protect monument resources, ensure public safety, or to further public education and interpretation objectives. Non-motorized trails may be evaluated for their potential to link areas of interest and provide a network of connecting trails. Such areas may include the following:

- Bull Tank and Baby Canyon,
- Badger Springs/Agua Fria Confluence and Pueblo Pato, and
- the Black Canyon City area into the southern part of Black Mesa.

Motor vehicle travel routes entering or traversing the Back County RMZ will be managed under the Passage RMZ provisions.

Passage

Designated secondary and tertiary roads or single-track motorized vehicle routes would be maintained at their current condition except where resource degradation or user conflicts occur. No routes will be upgraded, but routes would be minimally maintained to current standards. Routes would be maintained for the following reasons:

- to ensure access by authorized users such as BLM's permittees and lessees,
- to allow access for wildlife enhancement and maintenance projects,
- to ensure public safety by correcting hazardous conditions,
- to protect monument values, and
- to mitigate resource damage.

No new motorized routes would be built except for the following reasons:

- to protect monument values,
- to mitigate resource conflicts or damage,
- to correct hazardous travel conditions, and
- to meet other resource management objectives.

Any rerouting or building of vehicle routes must be consistent with protecting the monument resources and must meet management objectives.

2.7.3 Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area

2.7.3.1 Management Units

GENERAL MANAGEMENT OF MUs

The Alternatives explore different combinations of Management Units (MUs). The following Desired Future Conditions for the MUs apply to any Alternative where that MU is proposed.

Management Unit

Black Canyon

Desired Future Condition

A diverse group of interested citizens engaged in a collective effort to conserve the ecological, cultural, open space, and recreation values of the Black Canyon MU, so that it remains a well-managed, publicly owned urban interface area where people want to live and recreate. The MU's natural character is maintained while continuing to provide an array of public opportunities in the future for visual resources, environmental education, recreation, and exploration within the framework of a healthy, properly functioning landscape. This view includes multiple uses that are consistent with and support the overall community vision. The scenic views and recreation opportunities are maintained while protecting the watershed functions. The area offers properly managed and marketed quality recreation and tourism.

The scenic corridor along Interstate 17 between Yavapai and Maricopa Counties is preserved to promote tourism and welcome visitors to the area.

A comprehensive strategy and trails plan is completed to select and develop new single-use and multi-use trails, hiking, equestrian use, and vehicle routes for all lands within the MU. The strategy represents a collaborative effort with the AGFD, Prescott and Tonto National Forests, Maricopa and Yavapai Counties, and land managers of other trails to link to trails on BLM's lands. The strategy includes a coordinated trail linkage between the Black Canyon City and Wickenburg areas.

A joint-citizen, agency, and Government workgroup is engaged to identify nonpublic (private and State) lands within the Black Canyon MU with high-value biological, cultural, scenic, open space, access, or recreation resources. Recommendations and objectives on land access and open space conservation are delivered to BLM and other responsible agencies.

An environmental education program exists to instill a land use ethic and educate school youth and adult users about the MU. Recreation opportunities are expanded in the MU for new and non-traditional users.

Management Unit

Castle Hot Springs

Desired Future Condition

The values of open space and scenic and visual quality are emphasized. Recreational, cultural, and biological assets are maintained.

The MU's scenic and natural landscape settings are maintained while offering visitors a diverse array of recreation opportunities, including both human-powered and motorized-based activities. The following principles are emphasized:

- maintaining the rural and natural setting,
- protecting visual resources,
- allowing increased recreation use in suitable areas,
- protecting natural and cultural resources, and
- recognizing and protecting private property rights.

A healthy, properly functioning, and natural-appearing landscape is preserved. Multiple uses

that conform to and support the overall community vision continue.

A system of high-quality OHV and hiking trails exist that afford a multitude of opportunities for mountain bike, four-wheel drive, ATV, and motorcycle enthusiasts.

A diverse group of interested citizens are engaged in a collective effort to conserve the ecological, cultural, open space, and recreation values of the MU, so that it remains a place where people want to live, work, and recreate.

A citizen, community, and Government working group exists to identify management options for land acquisition or alternative protection for State and private lands within the Castle Hot Springs MU. State and private lands with high-value biological, cultural, scenic, open space, access, or recreation resources have been identified and prioritized. This group would deliver to BLM and other responsible agencies all recommendations and management objectives on proposed acquisition, easements, access, and open-space conservation actions.

When BLM is the suitable entity, acquire lands, easements, development rights, or conservation agreements through the following:

- exchange of private lands;
- conservation agreements for high-value cultural, open space, biological, or recreation lands; and
- purchase of access agreements or rights-of-way.

Study and, if feasible and consistent with law, establish parts of the MU as a fee-for-use area. Apply fees for the following purposes:

- to fund and maintain motorized routes and non-motorized trails and facilities;
- to improve law enforcement, and
- to enhance user and community education, stewardship, and volunteer programs.

Management Unit

Wickenburg

Desired Future Condition

A system of high-quality equestrian trails surround Wickenburg to buffer the area from urban sprawl and preserve the open-space value of the local landscape. This trail system affords many opportunities for all recreation enthusiasts and serve to enhance the lifestyle, culture, and cultural history of community residents.

A diverse group of Wickenburg residents is engaged in a collective effort to conserve the ecological, cultural, open space, and recreation values of the Wickenburg area, so that Wickenburg remains a place where people want to live, work, and recreate.

Properly managed and marketed quality recreation and tourism activities are offered throughout the MU which promote conservation and a strong land ethic, while protecting the natural resources and cultural heritage of the MU.

The MU is managed with an emphasis on the values of open space, scenic and visual quality, and cultural and biological assets. The lands within the MU are managed for multiple uses, including livestock grazing and OHV use.

A joint citizen, community, and Government working group exists to determine management options for land acquisition or alternative protection for State and private lands within the Wickenburg MU. State and private lands with high-value biological, cultural, scenic, open space, access, or recreation resources are identified and prioritized. This group delivers to BLM and other responsible agencies, all recommendations, management objectives, proposed acquisition, easements, access, and open-space conservation actions.

When BLM is the suitable entity, acquire lands, easements, development rights, or conservation agreements through the following means:

- exchange of private lands;

- conservation agreements for high-value cultural, open space, biological, or recreation lands; and
- purchase of access agreements or rights-of-way.

Management Unit

Harquahala

Desired Future Condition

The Harquahala Mountains are renowned for their cultural history, the quality and uniqueness of their biotic communities, and the diversity of their recreation opportunities. The mountain ranges in this MU (Harquahala, Big Horn, and Belmont Mountains) and the areas between them create a complex of wildlife habitats and wildlife movement corridors that the AGFD recognizes as priority management areas. The abundant recreation opportunities include the following:

- primitive experiences,
- designated hiking trails,
- a back country byway,
- backpacking,
- wildlife viewing,
- hunting,
- rock hounding,
- equestrian uses,
- cultural sightseeing, and
- OHV-driving opportunities.

The MU's scenic and natural landscape are maintained while offering visitors a diverse array of recreation opportunities. Such opportunities within the MU include both motorized and non-motorized activities. At the same time, a priority is placed on maintaining, enhancing, and restoring natural, biological, and cultural resources.

Management Unit

Harcuvar

Desired Future Condition

The MU's natural landscape and open space values are maintained. Recreation opportunities, scenic backdrops, and access to recreation features beyond the planning area boundary in adjoining areas are available to users.

Semi-primitive motorized settings with roaded-natural settings along primary routes are maintained. The Harcuvar MU is mainly an extension of the Harcuvar Mountains, which are managed by BLM's Lake Havasu Field Office. Management actions are closely coordinated with that field office.

Management Unit

Peeples Valley

Desired Future Condition

BLM's lands in the Peeples Valley MU are generally in relatively small, highly irregular pieces surrounded by State and private land. The resources on these lands are used by both local residents and recreation visitors and are considered important by those users. Further, regional features (mountain ranges, riparian areas) contain valuable wildlife habitat, especially for desert tortoise and bighorn sheep. The area also has a long mining and ranching history that has contributed to local settlement patterns and culture. For these reasons, Peeples Valley MU was created to explore long-term, coordinated management of the region's valuable recreation, wildlife, minerals, and other resources.

A regional approach to development and land management that preserves the quality and quantity of valuable recreation, wildlife, and other resources, while maintaining the stability of local economies and cultures is emphasized.

A citizen, agency, and Government working group exists to explore a regional approach to planning and managing lands that emphasizes sustainability of both natural resources and local communities. In conjunction with State, county, and local governments with planning and management jurisdiction within the MU, a

coordinated approach to achieving commonly established goals and objectives is used.

Management Unit

Upper Agua Fria River Basin

Desired Future Condition

The MU's natural landscape and open space is maintained. Visitors to public lands can find recreation opportunities, scenic community backdrops, and access to the Black Canyon Trail.

A citizen, agency, and Government working exists group to determine which nonpublic (private and State) lands within the MU have high-value biological, cultural, and scenic resources; open space; and access or recreation resources.

Acquire lands and easements, or establish conservation agreements through the following:

- exchange of private lands,
- conservation agreements for high-value cultural, biological, and recreation lands, and
- purchase of access agreements or rights-of-way.

Communication facilities are collocated on existing powerlines or communication towers whenever possible to minimize obstructions to the viewshed. “Stealth” construction techniques are used, such as color and design, to blend in with the natural surroundings as much as possible.

New utility rights-of-way, when needed, are constructed near roads and highways, or in less sensitive areas.

2.7.3.2 Special Area Designations

Designated Wilderness Areas

Management Actions

Within wilderness areas and in the absence of group size limitations in existing wilderness or activity plans, group size for casual use activities will be limited to 25 people. BLM would evaluate requests for groups of more than 25 people on a case-by-case basis to ensure that resources are protected. Groups exceeding 25 people would require prior written authorization from the authorized officer. A SRP would be required for groups over 50 people.

Repetitive or ongoing commercial recreation and vending operations would not be allowed in the Harquahala Mountains, Hummingbird Springs, and Big Horn Mountains Wilderness Areas, (including, but not limited to, such activities as guided horse rides or guided hikes that occur on a regular and repeated schedule) except for guided hunt and outfitter services. Organized groups conducting a one-time fund raising event would be allowed on a case-by-case basis when consistent with wilderness management objectives. Commercial recreation and vending operations will be allowed in the Hassayampa River Canyon and Hells Canyon Wilderness Areas when such activities conform to wilderness management plans, resource protection, and wilderness management objectives.

Wilderness areas are allocated as closed to motorized vehicles. Exceptions to this closure could be allowed for such wildlife management activities when approved by the BLM's manager, including, but not limited to the following:

- water supplementation,
- collar retrieval,
- capture and release of wildlife, and
- maintaining, repairing, rebuilding, or building wildlife waters, when such motorized and mechanized equipment is determined to be the minimum tool needed to do the job.

These types of activities will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as the need arises in the Big Horn Mountains, Hummingbird Springs, and Harquahala Mountains Wilderness Areas. Existing wilderness management plans will guide wildlife management within Hells Canyon and Hassayampa River Canyon Wilderness Areas.

Develop and adopt measurement standards for limits of acceptable change for trail conditions, visitor-to-visitor encounters, vegetation changes, Arizona Land Health Standards (Land Health Standards), and approved motorized/mechanized activities. Exceeding the limits of acceptable change could result in implementing actions such as the following:

- developing and distributing Leave-No-Trace or other educational information,
- initiating a permit system,
- closing damaged areas or trails to camping to allow natural restoration,
- realigning trails,
- reclaiming damaged areas,
- installing alternative access points,
- monitoring or removing non-native or invasive plants or animals, and
- mitigating the evidence (sights and sounds) of any authorized mechanized/mechanical uses.

Harquahala Mountain Summit Back Country Byway

Management Actions

Maintain the Harquahala Mountain Summit Back Country Byway and facilities to current standards and conditions. Management is currently conducted under an activity plan and portions of that plan not superseded by this Resource Management Plan will continue as valid guidance for management of the Back Country Byway.

2.7.3.3 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Decisions

Management Actions

Lands are to be considered for potential acquisition under all Alternatives. Some of the criteria for selecting such lands (willing seller) are specific to each Alternative's resource program objectives. Other criteria are identified under the Lands and Realty discussion of the Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of this chapter. No land disposal management prescriptions are common to all Action Alternatives.

BLM would initiate a withdrawal, which would close to mineral location, mineral leasing, and mineral sales and prohibit all land use authorizations on 20 acres of public land in Lot 21, eastern half of the southwest quarter of Section 6, Township 8N, Range 5W, for the BLM-Wickenburg fire station.

Land Use allocation

Utility and Transportation Corridors

Management Actions

The existing corridors contain many major transportation facilities and are major multiple-use corridors. They also house utilities at or above the threshold levels cited in the Lands and Realty discussion under Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of this chapter. Certain State routes, U.S. routes, or interstate highways would be designated as transportation corridors rather than multiple-purpose corridors. This designation would result because no current or projected demand exists for other utilities that would meet the threshold levels within these corridors.

All major utilities would be routed through designated corridors.

Land Use Allocation

Communication Sites

Management Actions

In accordance with the Telecommunications Act of 1996, BLM planning for communication infrastructure must help facilitate the implementing of wireless telephone systems by making Federal lands and facilities available for communication sites.

BLM will retain the designated White Tank Mountains, Lone Mountain, Burnt Mountain, Harquahala Mountain, Valencia, and Black Canyon City communication sites.

Other Land Use Authorizations

Land Use Permits for non-recreation related commercial filming will be authorized in conformance with 43 CFR 2920 guidelines.

Administrative Actions

BLM would, as appropriate, coordinate communication-related planning efforts with the FCC.

2.7.3.4 Soil, Air, and Water Resources

Administrative Actions

Initiate steps with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and Maricopa County Environmental Services Department to install and operate air pollution monitors near Lake Pleasant, or an alternate location that is experiencing high emission rates of particulate matter (PM_{10}).

Maintain and enhance stream flows in special management areas.

2.7.3.5 Biological Resources

Management Actions

Limit firewood collection to campfire use only.

Allow collection of dead, down, and detached material for campfire firewood.

Include in fuel reduction projects provisions for permitting firewood collection on a case-by-case basis.

Limit collecting of cacti skeletons, ironwood, and mesquite for personal use to 100 pounds per person per year.

Prohibit collecting cacti skeletons, ironwood, mesquite, and any other plant or plant product for commercial purposes.

Allow collecting of plant materials for scientific purposes with prior authorization.

Prohibit removal of all other vegetation material not specifically authorized by permit.

Coordinate vegetation salvage with the State of Arizona, and to the extent practicable, open it to the public.

2.7.3.6 Cultural Resources

Focus proactive (Section 110) inventories on areas defined as Special Cultural Resource Management Areas. Complete at least 200 acres of proactive survey, distributed among one or more of these areas during each fiscal year. (See Appendix F for a description of these areas.)

Retain in public ownership BLM lands within Special Cultural Resource Management Areas. Conduct Class III surveys on 10 percent of zones above 3,500 feet in elevation, which are the target areas for prescribed burns and other fuel treatment projects. Focus surveys on areas that are most likely to contain flammable historic structures, as identified by documentary research, to develop measures to protect these sites during fuel treatment projects.

Continue to monitor at least 25 sites, which are at greatest risk from vandalism or disturbance,

with help from such partners as Arizona Site Steward Program Volunteers.

Allocate properties from the following classes of prehistoric sites to scientific use:

- pueblos and other residential sites,
- hilltop "forts" and masonry structures,
- pit house villages,
- rock art localities,
- caves and rock shelters,
- agricultural features,
- wells and water control features; and
- roasting pits,
- trails and camps,
- resource processing sites,
- rock features and alignments,
- intaglios ("ground figures"),
- lithic quarries,
- grinding implement production sites ,
- artifact scatters that can yield important information and meet the Arizona State Museum definition of a "site" as opposed to an isolated occurrence.

Allocate properties from the following classes of historic sites to scientific use:

- mines, mills, and associated features,
- settlements and camps,
- rock walls and features,
- ranches, homesteads, and associated features ,
- livestock driveways, roads, and trails,
- other public works,
- facilities used in commerce,
- sites of military activities ,
- agricultural features,
- wells and water control features, and
- artifact scatters that can yield important information and meet the Arizona State Museum (ASM) definition of a “site” as opposed to an isolated occurrence.

Allocations and Management Actions: Special Cultural Resource Management Areas

Eight areas are regarded as Special Cultural Resource Management Areas, common to all plan Alternatives. These areas contain significant resources that, in many cases, are at risk of damage (Appendix F). Management actions within priority areas will be incorporated into annual work planning for the PFO's Cultural Heritage Program. As described below, selected sites are allocated to the categories of conservation for future use, scientific use, and public use. For further information on these use categories and associated actions, refer to Appendix E.

Black Mesa/Bumble Bee

Protection of significant prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, which are allocated to conservation and scientific uses. Ongoing scientific studies of occupation and use during multiple time periods, particularly the highly significant period from A.D. 900-1250, before the Perry Mesa Tradition in nearby Agua Fria National Monument.

Prepare and submit the required documentation to nominate a "Black Mesa Rim" archaeological district to the National Register of Historic Places.

Conduct cultural resource inventories (surveys) to obtain critical information needed to identify significant sites, allocate these sites to use categories, and integrate survey results into protective strategies and research designs.

Identify survey areas in reference to geographic gaps in previous coverage and the likelihood of finding significant sites at risk, including sites next to travel routes.

Continue to patrol at least three major sites with the help of volunteer site stewards.

Allocate the Running Deer site (NA 5856) and Archaic site AZ N:16:224 (ASM) to scientific use for study by qualified researchers.

Install protective signs at the Running Deer site and associated sites.

Install fences or barriers to exclude livestock from the Running Deer site.

Close transportation routes that lead directly to significant sites.

Galena Gulch

Conduct cultural resource inventories (surveys) to obtain critical information needed to identify significant sites, allocate them to use categories, and integrate survey results into protective strategies and research designs. Identify survey areas in reference to geographic gaps in previous coverage and the likelihood of finding significant sites at risk, including sites next to travel routes.

Patrol at least three major sites with the help of volunteer site stewards.

Allocate the historic McCabe Cemetery to "conservation for future use" to ensure long-term preservation.

Allocate the Humboldt Ruin (NA 4637) to scientific use.

Install signs and other suitable protection measures at the Humboldt Ruin and selected sites.

Maintain the barbed wire fence and erosion control features at the McCabe Cemetery.

Black Canyon Corridor

Conduct cultural resource inventories (surveys) to obtain critical information needed to identify significant sites, allocate them to use categories, and integrate survey results into protective strategies and research designs. Identify survey areas in reference to geographic gaps in previous coverage and the likelihood of finding significant sites at risk, including sites next to travel routes.

Continue to patrol at least five major sites with the help of volunteer site stewards.

Complete site documentation projects at the DeNoyelles site (AZ N:12:60 (ASM)) and Spring Pueblo prehistoric habitation sites that have been damaged by vandalism. Use the information to assess and implement measures to reduce further architectural deterioration.

Allocate the Euler Site, the Spanish Hill Fort, the DeNoyelles site, and Spring Pueblo to scientific use for study by qualified researchers.

Maintain or install signs at AZ N:12:60 (ASM), Spring Pueblo, Spanish Hill Fort, and other sites.

Close transportation routes that lead directly to significant sites.

Preserve the remaining historical signs and features of the historic Black Canyon Livestock Driveway and allocate them to public use to interpret the stock driveway's history.

Allocate to public use selected sites that are accessible from the Black Canyon Hiking and Equestrian Trail. Local site types suitable for public use include hilltop structures, rock art, historic mining camps and ranching facilities, and historic trails. This allocation will be applied to selected sites that

- have aboveground features amenable to interpretive development,
- can be stabilized to withstand public visitation, and
- would be of interest as exhibits-in-place.

Associated actions may include interpretive signs, trails, brochures,
and authorizing commercial tours.

Lake Pleasant/Agua Fria

Conduct cultural resource inventories (surveys) to obtain critical information needed to identify significant sites, allocate them to use categories, and integrate survey results into protective strategies and research designs. Identify survey areas in reference to geographic gaps in previous coverage and the likelihood of finding significant sites at risk, including sites next to travel routes.

Acquire the portions of the historic Gillette site that are outside federally administered lands.

Continue to patrol at least six major sites with the help of volunteer site stewards.

Complete site documentation projects with scientific use allocations at the Agua Fria Fort, Fort Tule, and AZ T:4:1 (PC), a hilltop site near Lake Pleasant. *Alternatives B, C*, and *E* allocate these sites to public use for long-term preservation and interpretation.

Maintain protective fences at Gillette, and sites associated with the Agua Fria Fort.

Maintain or install protective signs on at least five sites.

Coordinate with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and Lake Pleasant Regional Park staff in resource protection and public education. Cooperate in nominating the historic Humbug hydraulic mining complex to the National Register of Historic Places. Under all Alternatives except *Alternative D* allocate the Humbug site to public use for long-term preservation and interpretation.

Wickenburg/Vulture

Conduct cultural resource inventories (surveys) to obtain critical information needed to identify significant sites, allocate them to use categories, and integrate survey results into protective strategies and research designs. Identify survey areas in reference to geographic gaps in previous coverage and the likelihood of finding significant sites at risk, including sites next to travel routes.

Patrol at least three major sites with the help of volunteer site stewards.

Allocate the Vulture City Cemetery and historic engineering features along Constellation Road to "conservation for future use" to ensure long-term preservation. Ensure that road maintenance activities are implemented, to the extent possible, to preserve and stabilize the historic structural features of Constellation Road.

Allocate the unique San Domingo Mill site to scientific use, and complete a detailed documentation of the site.

Maintain the protective fence around the Vulture City Cemetery.

Under all Alternatives except *Alternative D*, allocate the Vulture City Cemetery, Constellation Road, and Monte Cristo Mine to public use for tours, interpretive development, or both.

Weaver/Octave

Continue to patrol at least two major sites with the help of volunteer site stewards.

Allocate the historic Weaver Cemetery to "conservation for future use."

Maintain the fence installed around the Weaver Cemetery.

Assess the condition of the rock cabin and other historic structures at Weaver and the feasibility of stabilization and allocation to public use.

Allocate historic mining sites and settlements to scientific use.

Under *Alternatives B* and *E*, allocate the historic Weaver Cemetery to public use. Install one or more interpretive signs outside the fence.

Harcuvar Mountains

Conduct cultural resource inventories (surveys) to obtain critical information needed to identify significant sites, allocate them to use categories, and integrate survey results into protective strategies and research designs. Identify survey areas in reference to geographic gaps in previous coverage and the likelihood of finding significant sites at risk, including sites next to travel routes.

Allocate pictograph sites (i.e. painted rock art) to "conservation for future use" for long-term preservation.

Patrol at least one site with the help of volunteer site stewards.

Coordinate with the Lake Havasu Field Office in developing strategies to manage cultural resources in the Harcuvar Mountains.

Harquahala Mountains

Acquire parcels with significant sites around Eagle Eye Peak, which is south of Aguila.

Conduct cultural resource inventories (surveys) to obtain critical information needed to identify significant sites, allocate them to use categories, and integrate survey results into protective strategies and research designs. Identify survey areas in reference to geographic gaps in previous coverage and the likelihood of finding significant sites at risk, including sites next to travel routes.

Continue to patrol at least two major sites with the help of volunteer site stewards. Add sites in selected canyons to the monitoring program.

Allocate the Harquahala Peak Smithsonian Observatory to "conservation for future use" and public use. Continue to maintain the condition of the building to ensure its long-term integrity. Continue to maintain the associated interpretive signs and visitor facilities. Allocate the historic Harquahala Peak Pack Trail to public use.

Allocate sites associated with the observatory and prehistoric sites in selected canyons to scientific use. Complete recording and documentation of site concentrations in selected canyons and near springs.

2.7.3.7 Recreation Resources

The DFC and management actions that follow will apply to all public lands, including those within MUs in the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area, unless superseded by management actions for SRMAs, RMZs, or other land use allocations. Where management actions in SRMAs, RMZs, or other land use allocations are silent on the subjects listed below, the actions listed below will apply.

Land Use Allocation

The designated Wilderness areas will all be allocated as Special Recreation Management Areas. Wilderness Areas included in this planning area are:

- Harquahala Mountains Wilderness,
- Hummingbird Springs Wilderness,
- Big Horn Mountains Wilderness,
- Hassayampa River Wilderness, and
- Hells Canyon Wilderness.

Desired Future Conditions

Wilderness areas will be managed for primitive settings to preserve their outstanding opportunities for solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation, and naturalness.

Land Use Allocation

Extensive Recreation Management Areas

Management Actions

General Recreation

All recreation actions such as facilities, projects, programs, amenities, and trails, as described in the sections below, would conform to land use plans, activity plans, and resource management objectives. The proposed actions need to conform to the managerial and social settings described in the document, such as recreation settings, VRM, SRMA, RMZ, lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics, and other management prescriptions.

Camping

Dispersed camping would be permitted on all planning area lands unless otherwise specifically designated as closed or restricted for resource protection or public safety purposes.

The current 14-day length of stay camping limit would continue to be policy for all public lands in the planning area, unless otherwise specifically designated or modified by management actions in this plan. The 14-day limit may be reached by continuously occupying one site or by occupying more than one site within a 25-mile radius within a 90-day period. Following the 14-day period, the party may not relocate to a campsite within a distance of 25 miles that was previously occupied, nor may they return to any sites previously occupied. After 14 days, the party may also choose to move to a designated camping area or move off public land. Extensions beyond the 14-day length of stay may be permitted on a case-by-case basis where needed for resource protection and land use management provisions.

Designated camping locations and camping length of stay limits (long- and short-term) would be developed as needed for the following purposes:

- protecting resources,
- ensuring visitor safety,
- resolving social conflicts,
- improving recreation experiences, and
- increasing recreation opportunities.

All campsite construction or designation would be compatible with social and managerial recreation settings and VRM objectives. Communities, user groups, or agency staff can bring camping site proposals forward for management attention.

Self-contained or vehicle-based camping would be permitted within 100 feet of the centerline of designated routes.

Campsites would be designated and developed at mining sites and prospecting areas when needed for resource protection due to trail proliferation, loss of soil and vegetation cover, public health and safety concerns, or user conflicts.

Any trailhead or staging area could be closed to overnight camping upon written authorization of the authorized officer.

It is unlawful for a person to camp within 1/4 mile of a natural water hole containing water or man-made watering facility containing water in such a place that wildlife or domestic stock will be denied access to the only reasonably available water (Arizona Revised Statute 17-308, Unlawful Camping).

Group Use (Non-commercial)

Existing vehicle parking and camping sites must be large enough to accommodate the group size without increasing the footprint of the disturbance area. Large group activities and events with 75 or more people would require a special recreation permit unless otherwise specified in special management areas, designated sites, or when special management and monitoring are determined to be needed.

Group Use in Wilderness (Non-commercial)

Large group activities in wilderness areas would be managed consistent with the provisions in section 2.7.3.2 under the discussion of Designated Wilderness Areas.

Equestrian Activities

Monitor and manage equestrian use according to the Arizona Land Health Standards (Land Health Standards).

Encourage the use of weed-free animal feed to prevent the introduction of noxious, invasive weeds.

Geocaches

The placement of geocaches would be prohibited in archaeological and raptor nesting

sites. Virtual caches may be allowed within archaeological sites with prior written authorization from the authorized officer.

Other sites may be prohibited if it is determined that the placement of these caches creates unacceptable resource impacts, conflicts with other users or health and safety concerns.

Paintball Activities

Paintball activities would not be allowed in wilderness areas and ACECs. Such activities would be allowed elsewhere in the planning area, if suitable to other resource management objectives and special management allocations. The following stipulations would apply:

- Require nontoxic, biodegradable and water soluble paintball capsules.
- Allow temporary obstacles or structures to be used but require that they be removed at the end of the visit to the public lands. Allow no mechanized or motorized cross-country travel to set up or remove structures. Authorize no permanent structures.
- Require goggles and masks protecting the ears, face, and throat.
- Prohibit shooting paintballs at wildlife and saguaro cacti. Prohibit the use of natural features, such as boulders and vegetation, as paintball targets.
- Require participants to pick up and remove from the area all items related to paintball activities, including capsules and any other trash.
- Require SRPs for paintball activities with more than 15 participants, unless otherwise specified in special management areas.
- Prohibit paintball activities within 1/4 mile of
    - high-use recreation areas such as campgrounds, trailheads, and staging areas
    - designated non-motorized trails
    - areas with permitted recreation activities
    - active scientific and research areas

Rock Collecting

Allow the collecting of rocks, minerals, semi-precious gemstones, invertebrate fossils, and petrified wood in reasonable amounts. In BLM Arizona, reasonable limits for personal use are defined as up to 25 pounds per day, plus one piece, with a total of 250 pounds per person per year.

Special Recreation Permits

General

No permit or event limits would be established at this time for the planning area. Allow permit and/or event limits to be established later in response to monitoring of resources, users, or social conflicts.

SRPs would be authorized on a case-by-case basis for all recreation activities meeting the requirements in 43 CFR 2930 and applicable manuals, policies, and guidance. SRPs would be required for all commercial or competitive use recreation activities. SRPs may also be required for the following:

- noncommercial, noncompetitive organized group activities and events
- vending operations;
- individual noncommercial recreation use in special area designations
- academic, educational, scientific or research uses

The criteria for when permits are required for these uses may be found in BLM Manual H-2930-1, Recreation Permit Administration Manual and Handbook. Definitions of the types of uses may be found in the Glossary.

Issuance of SRPs is at BLM's discretion. BLM would evaluate permit applications on the basis of applicable laws and regulations and conformance with existing land use plans, including consistency with recreation and other

resource objectives. The decision to authorize a proposed use would depend on the following:

- potential resource impacts,
- conflicts with other users,
- health and safety concerns,
- past or present performance with BLM or other agencies, and
- BLM's ability to timely process the application and effectively administer the permit.

Permits would be authorized, ensuring compliance with Federal, State, county, and local air quality and noise regulations.

Vending

SRPs may be issued for vending operations at a recreation site, or in conjunction with a permitted activity or event. The SRP for the activity or event may include vending operations if the operations are directly related with the permitted activity or event, and the permittee is responsible for the vending operations. If the permittee is not responsible for the vending operations, a separate SRP for the vending would be required.

Vending may be considered at recreation sites if the service or goods for sale:

- directly enhances the recreation experience and
- cannot be readily provided by the closest local community.

Permanent structures would not be authorized under a vending permit.

Competitive Races

All motorized competitive races would need to comply with the desert tortoise policy in the Biological Resources discussion of the Management Common to All Action Alternatives section of this chapter.

Motorized competitive speed races would be authorized only in SRMAs or RMZs where an allocation for such use has been made.

Leases and Land Use Permits

Concession Leases

Recreation concession leases, long-term authorizations for the use of public lands, are authorized under 43 CFR 2920. BLM would evaluate concession leases on a case-by-case basis to determine whether they conform to land use plans, activity plans, and resource management objectives. The proposed concession would need to conform to the managerial and social settings such as recreation settings, VRM objectives, and other special use area prescriptions. A strong public demand must also be demonstrated for the proposed products or services to be considered.
Leases would be awarded on a competitive bid basis and evaluated by the following traits of the concessionaire:

- experience,
- ability to provide quality services,
- financial stability and integrity, and
- past or present performance and financial offer.

Apiary Permits

Apiary (bee keeping) permits will be prohibited within 1/4 mile of the following:

- high-use recreation areas such as campgrounds, trailheads, and staging areas,
- designated non-motorized trails,
- areas or routes with permitted recreation activities, and
- active scientific and research areas.

Commercial Filming Permits

Permits for commercial filming or still photography, in accordance with Public Law 106-206, would be issued under the SRP guidelines when associated with permitted

recreation activities. The fee schedule would be used as outlined in 43 CFR 2920 commercial filming regulations. Proposals would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine if they conform to land use plans, activity plans, and resource management objectives. Proposed activities would need to conform to the managerial and social settings as described in the document such as recreation settings, VRM objectives, and other special use area prescriptions. Land Use Permits for non-recreation related commercial filming will be authorized in conformance with 43 CFR 2920 guidelines**.**

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

Maintain current inventoried recreation settings within ERMAs. ROS inventory is portrayed on the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum on Map 3-11. Since the areas allocated as ERMA and SRMA change by alternative, actual desired settings also change by alternative.

Facilities

Recreation management facilities would be planned and installed where needed for the following:

- protecting resources,
- providing for visitor safety,
- resolving social conflicts,
- improving the quality of recreation experiences, and
- increasing recreation opportunities.

Facilities can include water sources, toilets, scenic turnouts, cultural interpretive sites, kiosks, signs, parking areas, staging areas, and trailheads. Installed facilities must be compatible with recreation management objectives and desired settings and VRM standards. Communities, user groups, or agency staff can bring facility proposals forward for management attention.

Recreational Target Shooting

Recreational target shooting has increased in popularity on BLM lands as the population in Central Arizona has increased and availability of land to shoot on has decreased. BLM land is, for the most part, open to recreational target shooting. Public lands are shared by many users. It is imperative the target shooter select a shooting site that is both safe to other public land users and considerate of natural resources. The following discussion includes criteria for selection of safe and considerate shooting sites.

It is the ultimate responsibility of the recreational target shooter to ensure the projectiles they fire are contained within the shooting site they select. While shooting is allowed in most public land areas, the shooter should make no concession concerning safety. Consideration of other people using public lands is not only considerate, *Arizona Revised Statutes Title 13-1201* says:

(A). A person commits endangerment by recklessly endangering another person with a substantial risk of imminent death or physical injury.

(B). Endangerment involving a substantial risk of imminent death is a class six felony. In all other cases, it is a class one misdemeanor.

Therefore, it is paramount that shooters continually evaluate their shooting activities and the requirements necessary to ensure those activities can be conducted with projectile/bullet containment as a primary goal.

General considerations for selecting a suitable shooting site include the following:

- Make sure you have a safe backstop. That means you can see where the bullets are hitting behind the target. A hill or pushed-up berm of dirt is perfect. Remember that bullets can ricochet off flat surfaces—that includes rocks, dirt and water. Put your targets right in front of the backstop to ensure your bullets stop in the dirt. (Detailed guidelines for

backstops and side berms can be found below.)

- Select a site that doesn't put others at risk. Do not shoot towards or across areas where other people congregate such as hiking trails, vehicle parking and staging areas, and trail heads. It is a violation of Arizona State law (*A.R.S. 17-301B*) to shoot across a maintained road. Though this law only pertains to maintained roads, there are many routes in the desert that are used by motorcycles, quads, and four-wheel drive vehicles that are not as apparent as a maintained road. Shooting in the direction, or across them, though not a violation of the reference law, could be just as dangerous to people using them. Choose a site that avoids shooting across or towards motorcycle, quad, or four-wheel-drive routes as well.
- In addition to motorized routes, there are many popular hiking, bicycling and equestrian trails. Select a site that doesn't cross or shoot in the direction of a trail that could put people at risk.
- Selection of a safe shooting site would include staying more than ¼ mile from any residence or occupied structure. When selecting a site, assume any structure is occupied. It is a violation of Arizona State Law to knowingly discharge a firearm at a structure. The statue (*A.R.S 13-1211A and B*) says:

  (A). A person who knowingly discharges a firearm at a residential structure is guilty of a class two felony.

  (B). A person who knowingly discharges a firearm at a nonresidential structure is guilty of a class three felony.

- Selection of a site should include avoiding such improvements as wildlife or livestock water facilities, livestock control facilities such as corrals and fences, signs or kiosks installed to provide information, barns or other rural developments, or any other improvement that was not specifically designed to be shot at.
- It is a violation of Arizona State law (*A.R.S. 13-1603A 1)* if a person "Throws, places, drops or permits to be dropped on public property or property of another which is not a lawful dump any litter, destructive or injurious material which he does not immediately remove." This includes not only trash, but also brass or shells (including shotgun shells) from spent ammunition and items used as targets. Shooters are required to remove any targets, items on which targets are mounted, and brass from spent ammunition. BLM Phoenix Field Office policy is to only use targets that do not produce litter, and to remove them when you are finished shooting.
- Under the Code of Federal Regulations (*43 CFR 8365.2-5(a)*) no person shall "Discharge or use firearms..." on a developed recreation site. *43 CFR 8360.0-5(c)* defines "Developed Recreation Sites and Areas" as "...sites and areas that contain structures or capital improvements primarily used by the public for recreation purposes. Such sites or areas may include such features as: delineated spaces for parking, camping or boat launching; sanitary facilities; potable water; grills or fire rings; or controlled access."

Selecting sites with side berms and backstops is optional where the shooter can be assured of safe shooting 1.5 miles downrange for pistol or 3.5 miles downrange for high powered rifles, with appropriate left and right ricochet safety zones. With the popularity of public lands for recreation and other uses, this scenario is the exception rather than the rule. Therefore, the primary purpose for selection of backstops and side berms is to protect against the injury of people, the damage of property or both.

The type of firearms being fired and the shooting activity being conducted will dictate the extent of the backstops, side berms and safety fans required to achieve that goal.

A downrange safety fan is an area beyond the backstop and side berms that is free of people or property that can be injured or damaged by errant bullets. It is important to remember that, depending on the suitability of the backstop and side berms, a safety fan downrange will be required to assure a safe shooting area. Below are ideal specifications for both backstops and side berms. Sites with less than ideal backstops and side berms must have increasingly longer downrange safety fans, approaching the distances described above of 1.5 miles for pistols and 3.5 miles for high power rifles. Even with an ideal backstop and side berms, site selection should still consider downrange safety and a downrange safety fan.

The characteristics of safe backstops and berms recognized as needed for safe shooting practices are as follows:

- Height. Preferred backstops include naturally occurring hills or mountainsides, or steep-sided wash banks. Backstops of soft dirt are preferred over hard surfaces, and rocky slopes should be avoided as they create a high ricochet hazard. A minimum height of 15 feet is acceptable but 20 to 25 feet is recommended. Remember that bullet ricochet can happen even on the best backstop. Site selection should consider ricochet possibilities and backstops that exceed 20 to 25 feet should be chosen where possible to reduce ricochet away from the shooting area.
- Width/Length. The width of the backstop should be at least as wide as it is high. Targets should be placed directly in front of or on the backstop with sufficient backstop on either side to catch bullets. Ideally, side berms should be the same height and the full length of the shooting area from the backstop to even with the firing line.
- Slope. The range side slope (side facing the shooter) must be as steep as possible, but not less than a 45-degree slope (a ratio of one-to-one). Side berm slops should have the same dimensions.

Remember, even with the perfect backstop and side berms, finding a suitable shooting area must include a safety fan beyond the backstop.

The bottom line is to select a shooting site in harmony with adjacent properties and other public land users. The site should prevent adjacent properties and other public land users from experiencing any risk from the shooters activities. The overall responsibility of the shooter is to stop fired bullets before they exit the selected shooting area. It is the intention of the BLM to provide a safe and pleasant experience for any public land user. If shooting areas emerge that are contrary to the above criteria they will be clearly construed as putting other public land users at risk and they may be closed to shooting by the authorized officer, either temporarily or permanently.

As the demand for recreation shooting grows along with the demand for other recreation opportunities, the need may arise to identify and designate areas as shooting ranges.
Many locations within the planning area would be suitable for this use and could provide a safe and enjoyable shooting experience.
Identification and future management would be defined through further site specific planning and analysis.

Adaptive Management

Public lands are experiencing intensive use from motorized and non-motorized recreation. Impacts to natural resources are worsened by rapidly increasing urbanization and population growth next to the public lands. Other land uses are also contributing to the social conflicts and resource impacts on these lands. Some recreation use areas do not conform to other resource management objectives, such as

Arizona Land Health Standards (Land Health Standards).

Therefore, within two years of plan approval BLM will form a collaborative partnership with universities, external agencies, and interested communities and citizens to list and prioritize these areas of concern. The effort will then focus on developing a Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) framework to determine suitable and acceptable use levels for recreation uses, considering natural resource, socio-political, and managerial factors. This process would consist of four major components:

1. specifying acceptable and achievable resource and social conditions, defined by a series of measurable indicators,
2. analyzing the relationship between existing conditions and those judged acceptable,
3. selecting management actions to best achieve these desired conditions, and
4. implementing a monitoring and evaluation process to determine if management goals and objectives are being met.

During this process, inventories, surveys, and studies of existing resource and social conditions would be conducted to obtain and establish baseline data from which standards can be set and measured. Indicators would include both resource and social impacts such as the following:

- campsite proliferation or expansion,
- social trailing,
- soil compaction and erosion, and
- the number of social encounters.

Management Actions may include the following:

- providing public information and education,
- setting use and party-size limits,
- increasing visitor contacts and enforcement, and
- closing areas seasonally or shifting use to other areas.

Monitoring strategies may include measurements, rapid site assessments, photography, or other suitable techniques.

This process will be a dynamic approach in which adaptive management practices will be applied to facilitate learning and improve effectiveness. Efforts to coordinate with other resource disciplines will also be an integral part of this process.

Thresholds may be adjusted as needed to ensure resource protection, manage recreation use, minimize user conflicts, or react to new information or research, if warranted, due to changing circumstances or changes in management objectives.

The current authority for collection of recreation user fees would not allow for collection of such fees within the Bradshaw-Harquahala planning area. Under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004, P.L.108-447, fees may be charged at a site that has:

- clearly defined access points and area boundaries,
- substantial expenditure in operations and maintenance costs,
- significant investment in facilities (including roads and trails), and
- contains all of the following amenities:
    - a designated and developed parking area
    - permanent toilet
    - permanent trash receptacle
    - kiosks
    - picnic tables
    - security services commensurate with use levels

Should the above criteria be met in the future, a study would be initiated to determine the need and feasibility of charging a recreation use fee.

Administrative Actions

Develop partnerships and determine sustaining recreation and tourism-based economic opportunities with communities.

Interpretation and Environmental Education

Pursue multicultural interpretation and environmental education opportunities, outreach, development, and implementation of programs for adults and children. Apply learning modalities and incorporate various learning styles in program design and delivery. Encourage the use of multiple intelligence or other theories for program presentations.

Develop school curricula focusing on the BLM's mission with staffs from schools, school districts, and other learning institutions.

Allow cultural and natural resource interpretation signs and facilities where needed for visitor enjoyment or resource protection. Interpretive developments must be compatible with recreation management objectives, desired recreation settings, and VRM standards.

Develop websites and distribute brochures, maps, access guides, and information sheets to publicize the following:

- off-highway and specialized recreation opportunities,
- OHV rules,
- camping and non-motorized trails information,
- shooting policies, regulations and safe shooting practices, and
- applying Tread Lightly and Leave No Trace practices.

Accessibility

To the highest extent possible, all new construction and modifications for recreation facilities, outdoor developed areas, and any related programs and activities will be accessible to people with disabilities in accordance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, with later amendments. Guidance, requirements and standards for conforming to the above legislation may be found in the following:

- Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards.
- Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines, and the ADA-ABA Accessibility Guidelines (use whichever guidance is most stringent).
- Proposed Outdoor Developed Areas Guidelines (U.S. Access Board found at www.access-board.gov and 43 CFR Part 17, Subpart E found at http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html).

2.7.3.8 Transportation and Public Access

Motorized and Mechanized Travel and Public Access

Land Use Allocations

All designated wilderness areas are closed to motorized and mechanized vehicle uses. Motorized and mechanized uses on all other BLM's lands will be Limited to Designated Routes.

Closed = 96,820 acres

Limited to Designated Routes = 799,820 acres

Desired Future Condition

Define, designate, implement, and monitor a designated and comprehensive travel management network affording a range of high-quality and diverse motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities. The network would consist of a system of areas, roads, routes and/or trails. The travel management network and associated recreation opportunities would be consistent with other resource management objectives and recreation settings for the area.

Motorized routes connect neighboring communities, local jurisdictions, and lands administered by county, State, and Federal agencies to allow for multiple-day OHV experiences.

A regional network of motorized routes and access exists for long-distance OHV back country touring. Looping, regional routes connect the Black Canyon, Bradshaw Foothills, Wickenburg/Vulture, and Harquahala-Big Horn areas, and continue north to the Wagoner and Skull Valley area to connect to Prescott National Forest and the Great Western Trail. Economic development of local communities to the south, east, and west of Phoenix is synergistic with providing outstanding motorized recreation.

Management Actions

All motorized vehicles and mechanized human conveyances (such as bicycles) would be limited to designated routes. All routes would be designated within five years of plan approval. Until route-specific designations are made, all motorized/mechanized vehicle travel and access would be limited to vehicle routes selected by BLM through inventory. Where inventories are not complete, use will be limited to existing routes. Inventoried routes will be updated with input from BLM, partnerships, user groups, and citizens. For these purposes, livestock and game trails are not considered existing routes or trails. Cross-country travel off designated routes would be prohibited, except for the following reasons:

- public health, safety, and law enforcement emergencies;
- administrative uses; or
- BLM-authorized tasks approved by the authorized officer.

Vehicle access on designated routes may be temporarily closed when weather creates muddy conditions. When conditions are such that travel by vehicle cannot be accomplished without damaging the existing roadway or departing the roadway and traveling across country, the route is closed until the roadway can once again support a vehicle without damage.

A structured evaluation process would be applied to develop a designated travel and transportation system for all routes within the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area. A description of the current BLM Arizona standard process used to evaluate and designate routes can be found in Appendix D. These designations would apply to motorized vehicles and mechanized equipment designed to provide a mechanical advantage and intended for human conveyance, including automobiles, trucks, ATVs, motorcycles, mountain bikes, and other conveyances with one, two, three, four, or more wheels or tracks.

Single or multiple-use OHV and technical vehicle loops, routes, specialized sport sites and management strategies would be designed and developed through interdisciplinary plans, with community and user input. Routes and areas would be developed as needed for the following purposes:

- protecting resources,
- ensuring visitor safety,
- satisfying local community needs, and
- improving recreation experiences or increasing recreation opportunities, such as for rock crawling and motorcycle trials.

Limits of acceptable change indicators and standards would be developed in site-specific planning to reduce user and resource conflicts. All motorized vehicle route construction would be compatible with social and managerial recreation settings and VRM standards. Communities, user groups, or agency staff can bring motorized vehicle route proposals forward for management attention.

Existing routes would be selected and designated for inclusion into a regional route network.

General long-distance travel corridors for OHV travel between field offices and other adjoining lands would be designated.

Loop route opportunities would be recognized and spur trails connected to augment the existing route network where no resource conflicts preclude the actions.

Easements or rights-of-way across key private and State-administered lands would be acquired to ensure long-term network viability and public access. Easements or rights-of-way actions would be undertaken when:

- route system effectiveness is or would be adversely effected by outside actions;
- opportunity becomes available and the action is consistent with recreation settings and goals;
- recreation and resource disciplines need public and/or administrative access to sites;
- portal access is desired to support resource objectives of safety and sustainability.

Where (1) a route creates a conflict between route users and natural or cultural resources, or (2) an OHV or special vehicle use conflicts with recreation management objectives, the following or other mitigation could be applied:

- closing routes;
- limiting season of use and vehicle types, speeds, and noise;
- rerouting offending route segments; or
- modifying routes to reduce or eliminate conflicts.

Motorized vehicles may not be used off designated vehicle routes to retrieve game. The cross-country use of wheeled game carriers is permitted, except in wilderness areas.

Permits would be authorized ensuring compliance with Federal, State, county, and local regulations for air quality and noise.

Administrative Actions

Coordinate route designation with adjoining field offices and land management agencies.

Establish relationships and enter into agreements with local OHV groups and the business community for long-term route maintenance and community support.

Motorized Technical Vehicle Activities

Desired Future Condition

Certain types of motorized activities, such as rock crawling and motorcycle observed trails, require extreme terrain features and are not conducive to general motorized use by traditional stock 4-WD vehicles. These sites would not be evaluated and established during motorized route designation for the travel and transportation system; however, access to these sites would be evaluated during the route designation.

Management Actions

Technical vehicle sites would be evaluated and established on a case-by-case basis. Sites would be established if they result in no net loss of quality or quantity of sensitive resources such as cultural sites, wildlife habitat for priority species, sensitive soil resources, and other resources sensitive to motorized activities.

Limitations to assure the safe and intended use of these sites will be established as necessary. BLM, working with user groups and enthusiasts, would define the limitations in order to provide and maintain challenging opportunities for specialized sport activities. Motorized users would be informed of the required equipment and skills necessary to utilize these sites through the development of signing, information sheets, and outreach programs.

Administrative Actions

Evaluate and establish technical vehicle sites on a case-by-case basis, with community and user input. Sites will be developed as needed for the following purposes:

- ensuring visitor safety,
- meeting enthusiast needs,
- improving recreation experiences,
- increasing recreation opportunities

Site plans will establish limits of acceptable change indicators and standards. All sites must be compatible with social and managerial recreation settings and VRM standards; satisfy biological and ecological land health standards; protect or mitigate cultural resources; and achieve water quality standards for influenced drainages and watersheds.

Non-motorized Trail Networks

Desired Future Condition

Provide a local and regional network of designated non-motorized trails for short and long-distance travel by foot, horseback, and human-powered conveyances (e.g. mountain bikes). Connect communities and Sonoran Desert landscapes by linking regional areas and communities through trail planning and implementing as coordinated by a State of Arizona trails plan. Develop trails that connect Black Canyon City with the Black Canyon Trail and Agua Fria National Monument. Also, use long-distance trails to link communities and areas such as (but not limited to) the following:

- Prescott Valley,
- Mayer,
- Black Canyon,
- Bradshaw Foothills,
- Wickenburg area,
- Vulture Mountains, and
- Harquahala Mountains.

Assist tourism and economic development of communities by providing non-motorized outdoor recreation experiences.

Management Actions

Non-motorized activities that require SRPs would be limited to existing trails, which for these purposes do not include livestock and game trails. Casual hiking and equestrian activities are not restricted to trails unless prescribed in the management actions of a special area designation or allocation. The authorized officer may close areas to casual hiking or equestrian use, or require these activities to be limited to trails, to mitigate resource damage.

Administrative Actions

Plan, designate, and develop new hiking, equestrian, or mountain bike trails through interdisciplinary plans with community and user input. Trails will be developed as needed for the following purposes:

- protecting resources,
- ensuring visitor safety,
- meeting community needs,
- improving recreation experiences, or
- increasing recreation opportunities.

Trails project plans will establish limits of acceptable change indicators and standards. All trail building must be compatible with social and managerial recreation settings and VRM standards. Communities, user groups, or agency staff can bring trail proposals forward for management attention.

An evaluation process, similar to one described in Appendix D, will be used to establish a designated public access and route system within the Bradshaw-Harquahala area public lands, consistent with the land use plan resource management objectives.

Develop comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management Plans for the management units. These plans would implement the route designations for the area.

2.7.3.9 Visual Resource Management

Manage visual resources to minimize the visual intrusion of any authorized activity. Apply VRM class standards consistent with other resource objectives.

If possible, avoid placing strobes and other lights that will affect the quality of night skies.

2.7.3.10 Rangeland Management

Implement ephemeral range designation, where suitable, for managing vegetation and ecological processes as determined through the Arizona Land Health Standards (Land Health Standards) allotment evaluation process.

BLM may designate those areas for ephemeral grazing by applying criteria established in the Special Ephemeral Rule. In applying the rule, all the following criteria must be met at the same time:

1. The area is within the hot desert biome.
2. Annual precipitation is less than 8 inches.
3. The land produces less than 25 pounds/acres of desirable perennial forage.
4. The land contains less than five percent composition of desirable perennial forage plants.
5. The area is below 3,500 feet in elevation.
6. Total forage production is highly unpredictable, and forage is usually available only for a short time.
7. The growth depends upon abundant moisture and other favorable climatic conditions.
8. The area lacks potential to improve the current ecological conditions and produce a dependable supply of forage by applying intensive rangeland management.

2.7.3.11 Mineral Resource Management

Should the mineral estate under lands now closed to mineral entry be opened to mineral entry, manage those lands, including mineral estate, consistent with the decisions made in this plan.

Deny mineral material disposal applications if the disposal would result in a net loss of desert tortoise habitat.

On split estate lands:

- Where BLM manages the Federal mineral estate but the surface is not in Federal ownership, BLM will manage the lands as public lands under FLPMA.
- Unless it is determined to be detrimental to the public interest, BLM will not normally allow mineral material disposal without the surface owner's consent.
- Where the private surface has been developed for non-mineral use, BLM will limit or forgo mineral materials sales.
- On split estate lands, BLM will not normally manage for solid mineral development without surface owner consent, unless it is determined to be detrimental to the public interest.

2.7.3.12 Wild Burro Management

Management decisions from the previous RMP concerning the Lake Pleasant Herd Management Area (HMA) will be carried forward. Management of burros within the Lake Pleasant HMA will continue in accordance to the provisions of the Lake Pleasant Herd Management Plan and at the Appropriate Management Level (AML) set in that plan. Burros would be removed from the Lake Pleasant HMA when the population exceeds the AML or if they are determined to be nuisance animals as defined by the Wild Horse and Burro act of 1972.

A manageability analysis of the Harquahala HA is included in Appendix G. This analysis is the basis for future burro management within the Harquahala Herd Area. In response to the manageability analysis, the Harquahala HA would not be managed as a HMA. Burros would be removed from the herd area as funding is available with the target of reaching a population of zero.

BLM will coordinate with the AGFD and other affected interests during its evaluation of any proposals for burro management.

2.8 Alternatives Considered But Not Analyzed in Detail

This section briefly describes management options that were suggested either during scoping or the development workshops. However, BLM determined these management options should not be included in an Alternative. The elements are described along with the reasoning for excluding them from further consideration.

Designated Shooting Areas within Agua Fria National Monument or the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area

Designated shooting areas were not established because of safety concerns for areas where shooting would concentrate; therefore, would not be managed as shooting ranges. In addition, the potential concentrations of lead in such areas would require compliance with EPA regulations for site cleanup and monitoring. BLM and the AGFD can issue citations for the unsafe discharge of firearms. However, maintenance of safe conditions is considered achievable under current regulations, at current enforcement levels, and with the direction written in section 2.7.3.7 under the discussion of Recreational Target Shooting.

Restrict Shooting in Utility Corridors

Designating corridors as off-limits to shooting would be difficult to enforce because corridors are not physically marked on public lands. It is difficult for recreationists to know if they are in a corridor because many utilities do not include aboveground facilities. We feel enforcement of safe and proper recreational shooting is achievable with the direction written in section 2.7.3.7 under the discussion of Recreational Target Shooting.

Open OHV Areas

Designating areas open to cross-country OHV use was not proposed because a complete designated route system will be prepared after the RMP is approved. The Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area vehicle routes are being inventoried, but the comprehensive inventory is not complete. The route evaluation/decision tree process used for the national monument will be applied to develop a transportation plan for the planning area. Most areas with existing heavy OHV use is located within desert tortoise habitat, and more degradation of habitat would not be permitted.

Reclassify Some Areas of Desert Tortoise Habitat from Category II to Category I

The classification process evaluates several characteristics, including habitat quality and manageability. If habitat areas had met the criteria for Category I during the evaluation process, these areas would be reflected as such in the current category mapping.

Establish User Fees for Agua Fria National Monument

BLM believes that, as much as possible, the public should have access to public lands, including national monuments, without paying fees. The expected level of improvements and visitor facilities should not require extensive additional staffing, and fees should not be required to manage the monument's resources at this time. Furthermore, fee collection on the monument under current conditions would be inconsistent with the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004, P.L.108-447.

Establish Permit Program and User Fees in the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area

As noted for the monument, BLM believes that fees should be avoided whenever possible. The collaborative planning process used for this

effort has resulted in multiple contacts with local community groups that BLM will continue to work with throughout the implementing of the plan. The increased community contact should result in a higher level of awareness of the value of public lands and assist in long-term management through volunteer programs and site stewardship. Therefore, BLM believes that adequate management can be maintained without imposing user fees and adding staff. Furthermore, fee collection under current conditions would be inconsistent with the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004, P.L.108-447.

Identify Locations and Management for Recreational Prospecting

All forms of mining, including casual use (sometimes referred to as recreational prospecting), are managed under existing mining laws and regulations. Managing prospecting as a recreation activity would require changes to the mining laws and regulations that are beyond the purview of the RMP process.

2.9 Typical Management Actions and Standard Operating Procedures

2.9.1 Typical Management Actions

2.9.1.1 Vegetation Treatment

Several treatment methods and standard operating procedures would be used in a vegetation treatment program. BLM's policies and guidance for public land treatments would be followed in implementing all treatment methods. Many guidelines are provided in the following documents:

- Manual Section 1740, BLM Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health (Land Health Standards).
- Programmatic documents such as BLM's Environmental Impact Statement for Vegetation Treatments, Watersheds and Wildlife Habitats on Public Lands Administered by the BLM in the Western United States, including Alaska (BLM 1991).
- Other general and specific program policy, procedures, and standards for implementing renewable resource improvements.

The following manual, chemical, mechanical, biological, and fire treatment methods would be used under all Alternatives.

Manual Vegetation Treatment

Hand-operated power tools and hand tools are used in manual vegetation treatment to cut, clear, or prune herbaceous and woody plants. In manual treatments workers do the following:

- cut plants above ground level,
- pull, grub, or dig out plant root systems to prevent later sprouting and regrowth,
- scalp at ground level or remove competing plants around desired vegetation, and
- place mulch around desired vegetation to limit the growth of competing vegetation.

Hand tools such as the handsaw, axe, shovel, rake, machete, grubbing hoe, mattock (combination of axe and grubbing hoe), brush hook, and hand clippers are used in manual treatments. Axes, shovels, grubbing hoes, and mattocks can dig up and cut below the surface to remove the main roots of plants such as prickly pear and mesquite that have roots that can quickly resprout in response to surface cutting or clearing. Workers also may use power tools such as chainsaws and power brush saws.

Although manual vegetation treatment is labor intensive and costly, compared to prescribed

burning or herbicide application, it can be extremely species selective and can be used in areas of sensitive habitats or areas that are inaccessible to ground vehicles. Manual treatment of undesired plants would be used on sites designated as categories a, b, or c, where fire (prescribed or naturally ignited) is undesirable or where significant constraints prevent widespread use of fire as a management tool. These sites comprise a range of vegetation communities or habitat types. They include areas where there may be wildlife concerns, yet it is deemed beneficial to remove trees, shrubs, or other fuel-loading vegetation. Manual vegetation treatments cause less ground disturbance and generally remove less vegetation than prescribed fire or mechanical treatments.

Mechanical Vegetation Treatment

Mechanical vegetation treatments employ several different types of equipment to suppress, inhibit, or control herbaceous and woody vegetation. The goal of mechanical treatments is to kill or reduce the cover of undesirable vegetation and thus encourage the growth of desirable plants. BLM uses wheeled tractors, crawler-type tractors, mowers, or specially designed vehicles with attached implements for mechanical vegetation treatments. Mechanical equipment is used to reduce fuel hazards in accordance with BLM established procedures. Re-seeding after mechanical treatments is important to help ensure that desirable plants and not weedy species will become established on the site. Mechanical treatment and reseeding should occur at a time to best control the undesirable vegetation and encourage the establishing of desirable vegetation. The best mechanical method for treating undesired plants in a particular location depends on the following factors:

- characteristics of the undesired species present, such as plant density stem size, woodiness, brittleness, and resprouting ability,
- need for seedbed preparation, revegetation, and improved water infiltration rates;
- topography and terrain,
- soil characteristics such as type, depth, amount and size of rocks, erosion potential, and susceptibility to compaction,
- climatic and seasonal conditions, and
- potential cost of improvement as compared to expected results.

Bulldozing consists of a wheeled or crawler tractor with a heavy hydraulic controlled blade. Bulldozers push over and uproot vegetation and leave it in windrows or piles. Bulldozing is best adapted to removing scattered stands of large brush or trees. Several different kinds of blades can be used, depending of the type of vegetation and goals of the project. The disadvantage of bulldozing is that is disturbs soil and damages non-target plants.

Disk plowing in its various forms can be used for removing shallow-rooted herbaceous and woody plants. Disk plows should only be used where all of the vegetation is intended to be killed. Several different kinds of root plows are specific for certain types of vegetation. In addition to killing vegetation, disk plowing loosens the soil surface to prepare it for seeding and to improve the rate of water infiltration. The disadvantage of disk plowing is that it may be expensive and usually kills all species. Also, plowing is usually not practicable on steep slopes (> 35-45 percent slope) or rocky soil. Plant species that sprout from roots may survive.

Vegetation is chained and cabled by dragging heavy anchor chains or steel cables hooked to tractors in a U-shape, half circle, or J-shaped manner. Effective on rocky soils and steep slopes, chaining and cabling are best used to control non-sprouting woody vegetation such as small trees and shrubs. Desirable shrubs may be damaged in the process. This control method normally does not injure herbaceous vegetation. It is cost effective because it can readily treat large areas. The chains or cables also scarify the soil surface in anticipation

of seeding desirable species. The disadvantage is that weedy herbaceous vegetation can survive this treatment.

Various tractor attachments are used for mowing, beating, crushing, chopping, or shredding vegetation, depending on the nature of the plant stand and goals of the project. The advantage in using this type of equipment is that selective plants may be targeted to achieve specific goals. For example, mowing is effective in reducing plant height to a desirable condition, and mowing usually does not kill vegetation. Mowing is more effective on herbaceous than woody vegetation. On the other hand, a rolling cutter leaves herbaceous vegetation but can kill woody nonsprouting vegetation by breaking stems at ground level. Mowing, beating, crushing, chopping, or shredding usually do not disturb soil. Rocky soil and steep slopes may limit the use of this equipment.

Debris management after a mechanical treatment is critical in fuels reduction projects. Vegetation material that is left on a site will dry and may become more hazardous than before the treatment. Herbaceous material is usually not a problem because it will decompose relatively fast, depending on soil moisture and ambient humidity and temperature. Woody vegetation should be piled and burned under acceptable fire management practices.

Biological Vegetation Treatment

Biological methods of vegetation treatment employ living organisms to selectively suppress, inhibit, or control herbaceous and woody vegetation. This method is viewed as one of the more natural processes because it requires the proper management and plant-eating organisms and precludes the use of mechanical devices, chemical treatments, or burning.

The use of biological control agents will be conducted in accordance with procedures in BLM Manual 9014, Use of Biological Control Agents of Pests on Public Lands (BLM 1990b). Insects, pathogens, and grazing by cattle, sheep, or goats would be used as biological control methods under all Alternatives, but these methods can control only a few plant species. Insects are the main natural enemies now being used. Other natural enemies include mites, nematodes, and pathogens. This treatment method will not eradicate the target plant species but merely reduces the target plant densities to more tolerable levels. This method also reduces competition with the desired plant species for space, water, and nutrients. This treatment method will be used on larger sites where the target plant has become established and is strongly competitive.

Gradually, biological methods using cattle, sheep, or goats would avoid erosion hazard areas, areas of compactable soils, riparian areas susceptible to bank damage, and steep erodible slopes.

Biological control using cattle, sheep, or goats would be applied to treatment areas for short periods. In using grazing animals as effective biological control measures, several factors will be considered:

- target plant species present,
- size of the infestation of target plant species,
- other plant species present,
- stage of growth of both target and other plant species,
- palatability of all plant species present,
- selectivity of all plant species present by the grazing animal being considered for use,
- availability of that grazing animal within the treatment site area,
- type of management program that is logical and realistic for the treatment site, and
- potential impacts to native wildlife and their habitat.

These factors will be some of the options taken when developing the treatment for a site.

Cattle, sheep, and goats are not truly biological agents but are livestock used to control only the

top growth of certain noxious weeds. The following are some advantages of using livestock, mainly sheep or goats, for noxious weed control.

- They use weeds as a food source.
- After a brief adjustment period, they sometimes consume as much as 50% of their daily diet of this species.
- Average daily gains of offspring grazing certain weed-infested pastures can sometimes be significantly higher than average daily gains of offspring grazing grass pastures.
- Sheep or goats can be used in combination with herbicides.

Following are some of the disadvantages of using livestock:

- They also use non-target plants as food sources;
- The use of domestic animals, like sheep or goats, requires a herder or temporary fencing;
- The animals may be killed by predators such as coyotes;
- Heavy grazing of some weed species, such as leafy spurge, tends to loosen the stool of grazing animals;
- Most weed species are less palatable than desirable vegetation, and overgrazing would result;
- Livestock may accelerate movement of non-native plants by ingesting and excreting seeds.
- Livestock may transmit parasites or pathogens to resident native wildlife species.

Particular insects, pathogens, or combinations of these biological control agents may also be introduced into an area of competing or undesired vegetation to selectively feed upon or infect target plants and eventually reduce their density within that area. Only on rare occasions will one biological control agent reduce the target plant density to the desired level of control. Therefore, a complex of biological control agents is most often needed to reduce the target plant density to a desirable level. Even with a complex of biological control agents, often 15 to 20 years are needed to bring about an economic control level, especially on creeping perennials. In most circumstances, biological control agents are not performing control. They are only creating stresses on weeds, which is not the same as control.

Some advantages of using natural enemies to control weeds are as follows:

- They are self-perpetuating.
- They can be comparatively economical once studied and established.
- They can be highly selective.
- They offer a high degree of environmental safety.
- They do not require fossil fuel energy.

Biological control does have the following imitations:

- It is a slow process.
- It does not achieve eradication but merely reduces weed densities to more tolerable levels.
- It is highly selective, attacking one weed existing among a complex of other weeds.
- It cannot be used against weeds that are valued in some situations because insects or pathogens do not recognize boundaries.
- It cannot be used against weeds that are closely related to beneficial plants because the insects or pathogens may be unable to discriminate between related plant species.
- It cannot be used against weeds when the biological control agent requires an alternate host that may be a beneficial plant.

To develop a biological weed control program, the following steps must be taken:

1. Identify weed species and determine origin.

2. Determine if any natural enemies occur at the point of origin.
3. If possible, collect natural enemies.
4. Hold preliminary screening trials on the natural enemies of the weed in the United States.
5. Hold further screening trials in the United States.
6. Raise biological control agents before the first release.
7. Release biological control agents for the first time onto selected sites.
8. If biological control agents survive and increase in numbers, collect agents and release onto other sites of weed infestation.

Usually a complex of at least three to five different biological agents, such as insects, must be used to attack a weed infestation site. Even with a complex of biological agents, often 15 to 20 years are needed to bring about an economic control level, especially on creeping perennial plants.

Chemical

Chemical treatment would be used to control unwanted vegetation, and in some instances would be followed by a prescribed burn. Treatments would be conducted in accordance with BLM procedures and would meet or exceed individual State label standards. The chemicals can be applied by many different methods, and the selected technique depends on several variables, including the following:

- treatment objective (removal or reduction),
- accessibility, topography, and size of the treatment area,
- characteristics of the target species and the desired vegetation,
- the location of sensitive areas in the immediate vicinity (potential environmental impacts),
- expected costs and equipment limitations; and
- meteorological and vegetation conditions of the treatment area at the time of treatment.

Herbicide applications are scheduled and designed to minimize potential impacts on nontarget plants and animals, while remaining consistent with the objective of the vegetation treatment program. The rates of application depend on the target species, presence and condition of nontarget vegetation, soil type, depth to the water table, presence of other water sources, and the requirements of the label.

In many circumstances the herbicide chosen, time of treatment, and rate of application of the herbicide differs from the most ideal herbicide application for maximum control of the target plant species to minimize damage to the non-target plant species, and to ensure minimum risk to human health and safety.

The chemicals would be applied aerially with helicopters or fixed-wing aircraft or on the ground using vehicles or manual application devices. Helicopters are more expensive to use than fixed-wing aircraft. They are more maneuverable and effective in areas with irregular terrain and in treating specific target vegetation in areas with many vegetation types. Manual applications are used only for treating small areas or areas inaccessible by vehicle.

The typical and maximum application rates of each chemical would vary, depending on the program area being treated.

Prescribed Burning

Prescribed burning is the planned application of fire to wildland fuels in their natural or modified state, under specific conditions of fuels, weather, and other variables, to allow the fire to remain in a predetermined area and to achieve site-specific fire and resource management objectives.

Management objectives of prescribed burning include the following:

- controlling of certain species,

- enhancing growth, reproduction, or vigor of certain species,
- managing fuel loads, and
- maintaining vegetation community types that best meet multiple use management objectives.

Treatments would be implemented in accordance with BLM's procedures in Prescribed Fire Management (BLM 2000c)

Before conducting a prescribed burn, a written plan must be prepared. The plan must:

- consider existing conditions (amount of fuel, fuel moisture, temperatures, terrain, weather forecasts) and
- name the people responsible for overseeing the fire.

Also, natural fire that is allowed to burn needs to be carefully monitored to ensure that it will not threaten communities, ecosystems, and other values to be protected. This monitoring may require special expertise such as fire-use management teams that support the overall fire management program. Planning and implementation for a specific prescribed fire project entails the following four phases:

Phase One: Information/assessment includes the following:

- determining the area to be treated,
- inventorying and assessing site-specific conditions (live and dead vegetation densities, dead and down woody fuel loadings, soil types),
- analyzing historic and present fire management,
- identifying resource objectives from land use plans, and
- conducting NEPA analysis and compliance.

Phase Two: Prescribed fire plan development includes the following:

- developing the site-specific prescribed fire plan to BLM's standards,
- reviewing the plan, and
- obtaining plan approval from local BLM's field office administrators.

Phase Three: Implementation includes the following:

- preparing the prescribed fire boundary to ensure that the fire remains within prescribed boundaries,
- preparing the site, which may include building firelines and improving vehicle routes and wildlife and stock trails by limbing trees and clearing debris, and
- igniting the fire according to the plan's prescribed parameters.

Phase Four: Monitoring and evaluation includes assessment and long-term monitoring of the fire treatment to ensure that the prescribed fire has met the objectives of the approved prescribed fire plan.

2.9.2 Appropriate Management Response

2.9.2.1 Fire Management

The appropriate management response concept represents a range of available management responses to wildland fires. Responses range from full fire suppression to managing fires for resource benefits (fire use). Management responses applied to a fire will be listed in the fire management plan by the following:

- relative risk to resources, the public, and fire fighters,
- potential complexity, and
- the ability to defend management boundaries.

Any wildland fire can be aggressively suppressed, and any fire in an area designated for fire use can be managed for resource benefits if it meets the prescribed criteria from an approved fire management plan.

Fire Suppression Actions

The following constraints to fire suppression actions are common to all Alternatives:

- Use suppression tactics that limit damage or disturbance to the habitat and landscape. Use no heavy equipment (such as dozers) unless approved.
- Use fire retardants or chemicals next to waterways in accordance with the Environmental Guidelines For Delivery of Retardant or Foam Near Waterways (Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations Task Group 2004).
- Protect all known cultural resources from disturbance.
- In wilderness areas when suppression is required, use MIST and coordinate with wilderness area management objectives and resource advisors.
- Implement general and species-specific conservation measures to the extent possible to minimize harm to federally listed, proposed, or candidate species within the action area.

2.9.3 Standard Operating Procedures

STANDARD OPERATING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

BLM operates under a number of policies and procedures separate from the management decisions that are required to be analyzed in this planning process. The policies and procedures either already exist, or have been identified through the collaborative planning process and will be used to guide the implementation of the management decisions. The following section summarizes the policies and procedures for both the monument and the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area, for those resource categories that have identified such policies and procedures.

GENERAL STAMDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

All activities planned or conducted on BLM's land are subject to environmental analysis in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The process to comply with NEPA first involves a determination that the proposal is in conformance with our existing plans. Next, a determination of NEPA adequacy is conducted to determine if existing environmental analysis is adequate to address the proposal. And finally, if additional analysis is required, an environmental analysis (EA) is written to address site specific environmental impacts that might occur. Some projects, because of where they occur or for other reasons, may have adequate NEPA compliance through Categorical Exclusion. In any case, all projects require clearance for cultural resources and sensitive wildlife habitats. If it is determined there may be an effect to significant cultural resources, a mitigation(s) is/are recommended and consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer is initiated. If it is determined there may be an effect to Threatened or Endangered species or their habitat, consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service is initiated.

AGUA FRIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

Special Recreation Permits

Commercial permits are issued to qualified applicants on a first-come, first-served basis based on monument values and how they meet resource and public health and safety concerns.

Competitive and organized group and event activity permits are issued on a case-by-case basis based on monument values and how they meet resource and public health and safety concerns.

Permit allocations for commercial and organized groups and events could be adjusted based on monitoring of areas to be used, to accurately accommodate level of use, to sustain monument

objects and resources while maintaining desired social and managerial settings.

Non-Motorized Trail Construction

Trails are designed to minimize surface disturbance.

Linear areas of interest would be marked with fiberglass posts or rock cairns to establish the footpath.

Consider alternative types of transportation to link areas of interest within the monument.

Develop partnerships with local clubs and organizations to help maintain and monitor trails.

Motorized Trail Construction

Minimize surface disturbance by, where possible, using existing roads for motorized recreation.

Develop partnerships with local clubs and organizations to help maintain and monitor trails.

Lands and Realty

Obtain reasonable public and administrative access to BLM's lands within the monument in the following way:

- Require reciprocal access easements to meet specific program needs.
- Consider and manage the use of public lands for rights-of-way, right-of-way reservations, easements, permits, leases, licenses, agreements, etc, except for those areas identified as exclusion areas.
- Secure access easements as needed to prevent closing of access to public lands.
- Consider and evaluate acquisitions that would reduce conflicts between BLM and non-Federal landowner objectives, especially when conflicts are adversely affecting BLM management.
- Consider opportunities to acquire non-Federal lands where lands are valuable for achieving BLM resource management objectives within the Aqua Fria National Monument. Evaluate the following:
    - key wildlife habitat, fisheries management areas and habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species lands with water frontage, such as lakes, streams, flood plains, wetlands, and associated riparian ecosystems Land with important value for outdoor recreation purposes
    - land needed for visual resource protection
    - lands needed to bring existing BLM's land into consolidated geographical units.
    - consider partial interest acquisitions, such as access, minerals, water rights or conservation easements to benefit public land management within the monument
    - consider public/private land management and stewardship opportunities to assist in the management of BLM's lands within the Aqua Fria National Monument

Communication Sites

Any future communication sites will be designated only within the boundaries of designated utility corridors within the monument.

BRADSHAW-HARQUAHALA PLANNING AREA

Travel and Transportation Planning

Plan, designate, and develop single- or multiple use off-highway and special recreation vehicle areas, loops, routes, and management strategies through interdisciplinary plans, with community

and user input. Planning shall adopt limits of acceptable change indicators and standards and reduce user conflicts.

Evaluate roads, routes, and trails, on a case-by-case basis, for permitted events and determine suitability or if they will require action such as, closure, re-routing, rehabilitation, upgrading or authorization as an approved permitted course.

Enact road, route, trail, or area closures or mitigation where off-highway vehicle or special vehicle use is determined to be inconsistent with established recreation management objectives, and/or such use is causing harm to natural or cultural resources.

Permit motorized cross-country use only when specifically authorized for completing a BLM authorized task.

Develop brochures, maps, access guides, and information sheets and disseminate off-highway and special recreation vehicle information to the public.

Recreation

Parking, Staging Areas, and Facilities

Parking and staging areas will be allowed for visitors' needs to enhance recreation resources, to protect natural resources, to satisfy local community needs, or for public safety purposes.

Conduct site-specific planning, on a case-by-case basis.

Authorize facilities where needed for resource protection, visitor safety, improving the recreation experience or increasing recreation opportunities.

In non-designated areas, establish designated camping locations, off-highway and special recreation vehicle use areas and sites as needed for resource protection, visitor safety, improving the recreation experience or increasing recreation opportunities.

Evaluate, as needed, planning and installation of improvements for long-and short term camping areas, commercial and competitive off-highway and special recreation vehicle use areas, water, toilets, scenic turnouts, cultural interpretive sites, kiosks, hiking, equestrian or mountain bike trails, road and portal signage and road maintenance as needed and identified by communities, user groups, or agency staff.

Recreation Sites

Develop brochure guides for developed sites.

Allow cultural and natural resource interpretation where needed for visitor enjoyment or resource protection.

Camping

Close trailhead facilities to overnight camping upon authorization of the Field Manager.

Recreation Management in SRMAs/RMZs

Allow for increased recreation use in appropriate areas, while protecting natural and cultural resources through limitations in sensitive areas. Preserving a healthy, properly functioning, and natural appearing landscape would be essential.

Engage a diverse group of stakeholders in a collective effort to conserve the ecological, cultural, open space and recreation values of the area so that it remains a place where people want to live, work and recreate.

Initiate acquisition of lands, easements, or establish conservation agreements through:

- exchange of private lands,
- conservation agreements for high value cultural, biological, or recreation lands,
- purchase of access agreements or rights-of-way.

Assist local community efforts to work with the Arizona State Land Department for recreation easements across State land.

Form citizen, agency, and Government working groups to identify non-public (private and State) lands with high-value biological, cultural, scenic, open space, access or recreation resources that should be protected.
Deliver recommendations and objectives on land, access and open space conservation to BLM or the appropriate entity early enough so objectives can be met.

Maintain the scenic and natural landscape settings while offering visitors a diverse array of recreation opportunities, including both human-powered and motorized-based activities. Emphasis would be placed on maintaining the rural and natural settings, protecting visual resources. Multiple uses that are consistent with and support the overall community vision would continue.

Enter into Recreation and Public Purposes Act leases or patents with qualified entities when appropriate to achieve resource objectives.

Avoid vehicle and recreation uses/access to areas with known listed, sensitive, threatened, and/or endangered species (plant and wildlife).

Minimize recreation use and vehicular traffic when the soils are wet or during high-fire threat conditions.

Form partnership with communities and user groups to prevent and restore areas impacted by litter/dumping.

Complete comprehensive trails strategy and planning to select and develop new single-use and multi-use, hiking, equestrian, and OHV trails where appropriate to meet resource objectives. Then, implement that plan.

Work with private property owners to reduce conflicts between private owners and recreational activities.

Manage the lands within SRMAs/RMZs for multiple uses, including livestock grazing and OHV uses.

Complete a comprehensive inventory and description of all existing and potentially mechanized and non-mechanized trails and routes on public land.

Evaluate roads, routes, and trails, on a case-by-case basis for permitted events and determine suitability for closure, re-routing, rehabilitation, upgrading or authorization as an approved permitted course.

Develop brochures, maps, access guides, and information sheets and disseminate off-highway and special recreation vehicle information to the public.

Plan, designate and develop single- or multiple use off-highway and special recreation vehicle areas, loops, tours, routes and management strategies through interdisciplinary plans, with community and user input. Emphasis will be placed on all-terrain vehicle opportunities and trail linkages with the Black Canyon, New River, Anthem, Wickenburg, Cordes Lakes, and other communities. Planning shall adopt limits of acceptable change indicators and standards and emphasize reducing user conflicts.

Mineral Resources

Unless otherwise restricted, all Federal mineral estates administered by BLM within the Planning Area are available for orderly and efficient development of mineral resources. Mineral exploration and development is generally encouraged on public land in keeping with BLM's multiple resource concepts. Overall guidance on the management of mineral resources appears in the *Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970*, Sec. 102(a)(120 of FLPMA, *National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980* and BLM's *Mineral Resources Policy of May 29, 1984*.

Exploration and development of all mineral resources will be conducted in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Acquired lands will be opened to mineral entry unless critical resource values (threatened and endangered species, riparian habitat, scenic values, etc.) or public health and safety require closure. Upon approval of proposed regulations at 43 CFR 2201.8-2(b), newly acquired lands would automatically be open to operation of the public lands and mineral laws within a specified timeframe after acceptance of title unless critical resource values such as those listed above require closure.

Issuing rights-of-way where there are active mining claims is routine and covered by legislation and regulation. The right-of-way purchaser or permittee is informed of the rights of the mining claimant. Mining might intermittently or temporarily obstruct the right-of-way.

Locatable Minerals

The 43 CFR 3715 and 3809 regulations provide for the management of surface disturbance associated with mineral exploration and development including mining claim use and occupancy. The BLM reviews mining notices and plans in the time allotted as identified in the regulations. For notice level operations, if time permits, a site visit would be conducted for lands identified in a mining notice by the geologist and an archeologist and biologist if they are available. A site visit would always be conducted by BLM during the processing of a plan of operations.

Mining plans and notice level operations when mining claim occupancy is proposed are required to have the proper NEPA documentation prepared. BLM will work with operators to insure that notices and plans are processed efficiently and in a timely manner. Reclamation plans and bonds are required for each notice and plan per regulation. The amount of such bonds is for the full amount required to complete 100% of the required reclamation as if BLM were required to hire independent contractors to do the work.

In addition to the requirements of 43 CFR 3715 and 43 CFR 3809, State and Federal law provides for numerous other permits including, but not limited to: an Aquifer Protection Permit and a NPDES permit both issued by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, a Section 404 permit issued by the Army Corps of Engineers and a flood control permit issued by the county. Also, Arizona State law requires mining claimants to keep mining property in a safe condition. The State Mine Inspector's Office is responsible for enforcing this law. BLM will cooperate all interested agencies to ensure that operations conducted on BLM administered lands are in full compliance with all Federal, State and local health, safety and environmental laws as required by 43 CFR 3715.5.

All occupancy of mining claims must meet the requirements of 43 CFR 3715 and must meet the specific requirements of 43 CFR 3715.2. At a minimum, all occupancies will meet the requirements and standard stipulations for occupancy contained in the BLM Arizona Programmatic EA for Mining Claim Use and Occupancy.

Surface disturbing activities at a level greater than casual use in wilderness areas, national monuments, areas of critical environmental concern and other areas identified in 43 CFR 3809.11 will require a plan of operations before mining can begin. Operations proposed for lands that are withdrawn from mineral entry will cause BLM to initiate a validity examination and will be allowed only on claims with a valid discovery and location existing before designation. Before BLM can approve mining plans of operation submitted for work in areas withdrawn from mineral entry, a BLM mineral examiner must verify that a valid claim exists. The mineral examination and mineral report must confirm that minerals have been found and the evidence is of such character that a person of ordinary prudence would be justified in the further expenditure of his labor and means with a reasonable prospect of success in developing a valuable mine.

Leasable Minerals

Lease applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Leases will be issued with needed restrictions to protect resources. Stipulations to protect important surface values will be based on interdisciplinary review of individual proposals and environmental analysis.

Wild Horses and Burros

Continue to monitor burro numbers and habitat conditions in the Lake Pleasant Herd Management Area.

During times of high water levels in Lake Pleasant, relocate burros trapped on temporary islands if they are in danger, or if there is insufficient habitat for survival.

Monitor and maintain Harquahala herd at current population levels.

Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

- Consolidate land ownership to achieve management efficiency and reduced costs.
    - Consider and evaluate the overall combination of all resource values and factors including wildlife habitat, riparian areas, wetlands, cultural resources, recreation opportunities, scenic value, watershed protection, timber and mining resources, rangelands, public access and a broad array of recreation uses.
    - Consider the use of patent reservations and habitat management plans when conveying lands from Federal ownership
    - Consider and evaluate making public land available for disposal to local governments and non-profits under the Recreation & Public Purposes Act.
    - Obtain reasonable public and administrative access to BLM lands in the following ways:
    - Require reciprocal access easements to meet specific program needs.
    - Consider and manage the use of public lands for rights-of-way, right-of-way reservations, easement, permits, leases, licenses, agreements, etc, except for those areas identified exclusion areas.
    - Secure access easements as needed to prevent closing of access to public lands.
    - Consider and evaluate in land adjustment actions (including disposal, acquisition, sale, donation) the following:
        - Reduction of BLM administrative costs and improvement of management efficiency.
        - Identify for disposal relatively small, isolated, inaccessible tracts of BLM that do not meet resource management needs.
        - Consider and evaluate conveyances or acquisitions that would reduce conflicts between BLM and non-Federal landowner objectives, especially when conflicts are adversely affecting BLM management.

- Consider opportunities to acquire non-Federal lands by purchase or exchange (willing seller) where lands are valuable for achieving BLM resource management objectives. Evaluate the following:
    - key wildlife habitat, fisheries management areas and habitat

for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species
- designated wilderness and other special management areas
- lands with historical or important heritage resources, outstanding scenic values, or critical ecosystems when these resources are threatened by change of use, or when management may be enhanced by public ownership
- lands with water frontage, such as lakes, streams, flood plains, wetlands, and associated riparian ecosystems
- land with important value for outdoor recreation purposes
- land needed for visual resource protection
- lands needed to bring existing BLM land into consolidated geographical units.
- lands that will maintain or stabilize the economies of local government
- lands where BLM programs will provide the best insurance against existing or potential uses that are incompatible with effective watershed management.
- consider partial interest acquisitions, such as access, minerals, water rights or conservation easements to benefit public land management.
- consider public/private land management and stewardship opportunities to assist in the management of BLM lands
- consider disposal of Federal subsurface estate under non-Federal surface estate on a case-by-case basis. Seek opportunities to consolidate surface and mineral ownership

Utility and Transportation Corridors and Communication Sites

Corridors to be designated in the Resource Management Plans (RMPs) and EIS should be considered on the basis of their suitability to accommodate right-of-way for facilities of particular threshold sizes or volumes. A corridor is defined only if it contains or is planned for one or more of the following major facilities:

- natural gas and other pipelines are at least10 inches in diameter,
- electric transmission facilities have a capacity of 115 kV lines or greater voltage,
- significant canals are those which provide delivery of water to urban areas, and
- transportation facilities are those formally defined as Current or Proposed Roads of regional Significance or Current or Proposed Major Arterials (functional class) identified by a local government jurisdiction as regionally significant and projected to carry 20,000 or more vehicles per day by the year 2015.

Utilities, whether interstate, intrastate, or local, should be co-located in designated corridors to the maximum degree possible to minimize impacts to BLM-administered lands.

Transportation routes, whether interstate, intrastate, or local, should be co-located with utilities in designated corridors to the maximum degree possible to minimize impacts to BLM-administered lands.

BLM will strive to coordinate applicable transportation-related planning efforts for the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), the Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT), and the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), and Yavapai County.

Smaller utility lines needed for local service in the vicinity of the corridors should be collocated within a corridor unless doing so would limit the

opportunity to collocate additional major utility lines in the corridor.

Avoidance of sensitive or special resources is a primary consideration in future planning and designation of utility corridors.

BLM's planning should promote, whenever possible, optimal energy transfer efficiency and support alternative energy sources such as use of photovoltaic cells (solar energy) and wind power.

In February 2003, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued the National Strategy for the Physical Protection of Critical Infrastructures and Key Assets (DHS 2003) which summarized the initial assessment of, and planning to protect against, vulnerabilities to the terrorist threat. As DHS continues to carry out its mandate, the designation of utility and transportation corridor location and the planning and maintenance of utilities, railroads, and Federal, State, and interstate highways that cross BLM-administered lands, will be consistent with any directives, policies, and procedures that DHS may institute to minimize vulnerabilities to the energy grid.

Whenever possible, utility transmission lines will be designed and/or routed so as to minimize adverse visual impacts to the surrounding lands and vistas.

BLM's utility corridor designations must be consistent with authority granted under FLPMA Title V, Sections 501–511 (43 USC 1761–1771), the Mineral Leasing Act of 1928 (CFR 2880) and the BLM Right-of-Way Manual, Sections 2801.11 and 2801.12.

In accordance with Executive Order No. 13212, the Energy Project Streamlining process (signed May 18, 2001), Federal energy-related planning must serve to expedite the production, transmission, or conservation of energy.

BLM will continue to cooperate as a full partner (with U.S. Forest Service, APS, and SRP, in AZ) in the Western Utility Group, whose mission is to facilitate an exchange of information and coordinate planning efforts between Federal agencies and utility providers throughout the western U.S.

BLM will, as appropriate, coordinate communication-related planning efforts with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

BLM's planning related to telecommunication infrastructure must, in accordance with the Telecommunications Act of 1996, help facilitate implementation of wireless telephone systems, in compliance with existing law, by making Federal lands and facilities available for communication sites.

Land Uses Requiring Permits

The common land uses requiring permits are commercial photography, apiaries, geological and hydrological testing, and some military activities. The recipients of R&PP leases or patents are State and local governments and qualified nonprofit organizations.

ENTIRE PLANNING AREA

Fire Management

Fire suppression will be carried out in a manner consistent with Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations, which is updated on an annual basis by the National Interagency Fire Center. Logistical support, operation and coordination, and policies and procedures for mobilization of fire fighting resources are outlined in the Southwest Area Mobilization Guide. This guide provides direction for Federal and State agencies Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

BLM’s PFO consulted with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in 1993 on the effects of fire management in the Perry Mesa National Register District, in what is now Agua Fria National Monument. The two agencies agreed that emphasis will be placed on avoiding direct disturbances to archaeological sites from fire initiation, management, and suppression. In

the past decade, efforts have been undertaken to fulfill this objective in order to protect known sites in the national monument as well as in other areas.

Fire management will continue to avoid the physical disturbance of known archaeological sites or sites found during fire management activities. Fires will not be intentionally started at known sites. Archaeologists will serve as resource advisors for fire management and help develop and implement fire and fuels management plans, which would address effects on cultural resources. Fire crews will be educated about the need to protect cultural resources.

Public Health and Safety

Minimize releases of hazardous materials through compliance with current regulations. When hazardous materials are released into the environment, assess their impacts on each resource and determine the appropriate response, removal, and remedial actions to take.

Evaluate all actions (including land use authorizations and disposals, mining and milling activities, and unauthorized land uses) for hazardous materials, waste minimization, and pollution prevention. Identify appropriate mitigation for surface-disturbing and disruptive activities associated with al types of hazardous materials and waste management and all types of fire management.

Complete site-specific inventories when lands are being disposed or acquired. It is departmental policy to minimize potential liability of the Department and its bureaus by acquiring property that is no contaminated unless directed by Congress, court mandate, or as determined by the Secretary.

Inspect mining and milling sites to determine appropriate management for hazardous materials.

Identify parties responsible for contamination who will be liable for cleanup and resource damage costs, as prescribed by law.

Paleontological Resources

For all authorized surface disturbing activities.

- Inventories will be conducted on a case-by-case basis, as deemed necessary by the authorized officer, for each proposed surface-disturbing activity to ensure maintenance or integrity of paleontological values.
- User/operators shall be responsible for informing all persons associated with a project that they shall be subject to prosecution for damaging, altering, excavating, or removing any vertebrate or noteworthy occurrences of invertebrate or plant fossils on site.
- If vertebrate or noteworthy occurrences of invertebrate or plant fossils are discovered, the user/operator shall suspend all operations that further disturb such materials and immediately contact the authorized officer.
- User/operators shall not resume until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer.
- Within five working days, the authorized officer will evaluate the discovery and inform the operator of actions that will be necessary to prevent loss of significant scientific values.
- The user/operator shall be responsible for the cost of any mitigation required by the authorized officer.
- Upon verification from the authorized officer that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator shall be allowed to resume operations.

Grazing

Rest rotation, deferred rotation, seasonal or short duration use, or other grazing management systems may be implemented where the need has been identified through monitoring. Monitoring will be used to assess the

effectiveness of changes brought about by new management practices.

Intensity, season and frequency, and distribution of grazing use should provide for growth and reproduction of the plant species needed to reach desired plant community objectives.

Consider deferment of livestock where possible in cooperation with lease and permit holders. This deferment may allow for the use of prescribed fire or other vegetative treatments, or the use of the area as a grass bank to allow for rest in other grazing allotments.

Administrative vehicular access to repair range improvements by the grazing lessee is assured through issuance of the grazing permit.

One time travel to access sick or injured livestock away from designated routes is authorized to transport the individual to a medical facility.

Any compensation for a loss of range improvements within these pastures will be made in accordance with 43 CFR 4120.3-6.

Livestock management changes may be made when sufficient assessment, inventory, or monitoring data are available.

Fence construction and maintenance will follow guidance provided in BLM handbook on Fencing No. 1741-1

Threatened or Endangered Species

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended, provides for the protection of threatened, endangered and proposed threatened or endangered species of plants and animals. Specifications of the ESA pertain to both the Agua Fria National Monument and the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area.

The following requirements are prescribed in the BLM's Manual 6840:

1.The BLM shall conserve T/E species and the ecosystems upon which they depend and shall use existing authority in furtherance of the purposes of the ESA. Specifically the BLM shall:

a. Determine, to the extent practical, the occurrence and distribution of all T/E species on lands administered by BLM, and evaluate the significance of lands administered by BLM in the conservation of those species.

b. Identify land administered by BLM that is essential habitat and designated Critical Habitat of T/E species, and prescribe management for the conservation of these habitats in land use plans.

c. Develop and implement management plans that will ensure the conservation of T/E species and their habitats.

d. Evaluate ongoing management activities to ensure T/E species conservation objectives are being met.

e. Ensure that all activities affecting the populations and habitats of T/E species are designed to be consistent with recovery needs and objectives.

2. The BLM shall ensure that all actions authorized, funded, or carried out by the BLM are in compliance with the ESA. To accomplish this, the BLM shall:

a. Screen all proposed actions to determine if T/E species or their habitat may be affected. Normally the environmental analysis process is used.

b. Initiate consultation with the FWS/NMFS, as appropriate, for those actions that may affect T/E species or their habitats.

c. Not carry out any actions that would cause any irreversible or irretrievable

commitment of resources or reduce the future management options for the species involved until the consultation proceedings are completed and a final decision has been reached.

d. Ensure that no BLM action will adversely affect the likelihood of recovery of any T/E species.

3. The BLM shall cooperate with the FWS/NMFS in planning and providing for the recovery of T/E species. To accomplish this the BLM shall:

a. Participate on recovery teams and in recovery plan preparation, as well as State or regional working teams responsible for T/E species recovery.

b. Review technical and agency review drafts of recovery plans for species affected by BLM management to ensure that proposed actions assigned to BLM are technically and administratively feasible and consistent with BLM's mission and authority.

c. Ensure that the decisions, terms, and conditions of resource management plans, and more detailed site-specific plans, prepared for lands covered by previously approved recovery plans are consistent with meeting recovery plan objectives.

4. The BLM shall retain in Federal ownership all habitat essential for the survival or recovery of any T/E species, including habitat used historically by these species.

5. Species proposed for listing as T/E and proposed Critical Habitat shall be managed with the same level of protection provided for T/E species except that formal consultations are not required. The BLM shall confer with the FWS/NMFS on any action that will adversely affect a proposed species or proposed critical habitat.

6. Candidate species will be managed so as not to contribute to the need for them to become listed as threatened or endangered.

2.10 Implementation and Monitoring

2.10.1 Implementation

Many land use plan decisions are implemented or become effective upon approval of the RMP. Examples of such decisions include the following:

- decisions on land health standards and DFC,
- land use allocation decisions, and
- all special area designations such as ACECs.

Management actions that require more site-specific project planning as funding becomes available will require further environmental analysis. Decisions to implement site-specific projects are subject to administrative review when such decisions are made.

BLM will continue to involve and collaborate with the public while implementing this plan. Opportunities to become involved in the plan implementation and monitoring will include development of partnerships and community-based citizen working groups. BLM and citizens can collaboratively develop site-specific implementation plans that mutually benefit public land resources, local communities, and the people who live, work, or play on the public lands.

Some commercial and organized group uses requiring SRPs have little to no resource impacts, user conflicts, or health and safety concerns, and require little monitoring. Examples of such uses are hunting outfitter and guide operations, motorized tours, photography tours, nature hikes, dual-sport rides, horseback rides, and organized club campouts. Special

stipulations for SRPs have been developed to protect natural resources, reduce user conflicts, and minimize health and safety risks. These stipulations are included with all authorized SRPs and must be followed to keep the permit valid. These stipulations may be found in Appendix K.

No further environmental analysis for these permit applications will be needed under any of the following conditions.

- These special stipulations are incorporated with the permit.
- The proposed activities occur on designated vehicle routes.
- The proposed activities are confined to existing disturbed areas where allowable use limits have been established or have been designated for such activities.
- There are no expected public concerns or user conflicts.

Final decisions for permit issuance may still be based on other valid concerns, including the following:

- performance,
- other conflicting activities such as hunt seasons,
- BLM's ability to process the permit, and
- other unforeseen circumstances.

The permitted uses must also comply with any special MU allocations or restrictions. Proposed uses that do not meet the above criteria will be subject to further environmental analysis.

2.10.2 Monitoring

Monitoring of actions related to implementing land use plans is an important part of adaptive management. Tracking progress of actions and measuring changes resulting from these activities is important for determining success and the need for a different management approach.

BLM's PFO monitors many activities and events. For example, grazing utilization and vegetation trends are measured to support decisions on allotment Standards and Guidelines evaluations. OHV events are monitored to determine that permit stipulations are followed and necessary site rehabilitation is undertaken.

This RMP recognizes many monitoring needs that will require further effort to design and plan. The PFO invites citizens to help develop an effective monitoring and evaluation plan that lets citizens help monitor effects of implemented plan decisions on public land resources, local communities, and public land users.

2.11 Administrative Actions

Although BLM's intent and commitment to accomplish administrative actions are generally addressed in RMP/EIS-level documents, such activities are neither land-use-plan-level decisions nor implementation-level management-action decisions. Administrative actions are day-to-day activities conducted by BLM, often required by FLPMA but not requiring a NEPA analysis or a decision by a responsible official to be accomplished. Examples of administrative actions include mapping, surveying, inventorying, monitoring, collecting needed information such as research and studies, and completing project-specific or implementation-level plans.

2.12 Requirements for Further Environmental Analysis

The proposed RMP/EIS is a programmatic statement describing the impacts of implementing the proposed land use plan

decisions and management actions described for the planning areas.

Land use plan decisions that are implemented upon approval of the RMP do not require any further environmental analysis or documentation. Whenever implementation-level plans (e.g. ACEC management plans) are prepared, more environmental analysis and documentation would be required. Individual management actions or projects requiring more site-specific project planning as funding becomes available, would require more environmental analysis.

Site-specific environmental analysis and documentation (including the use of categorical exclusions and determinations of NEPA adequacy where suitable) may be prepared for one or more individual projects, in accordance with management objectives and decisions established in the approved land use plan. In addition, BLM will ensure that the environmental review process includes evaluation of all critical elements; to include cultural resources and threatened and endangered species; and completes required USFWS, Section 7, consultations and coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in accordance with the BLM Cultural Resources National Programmatic Agreement and Arizona's BLM-SHPO Protocol.

Interdisciplinary impact analysis will be based on this and other applicable EISs. If the analysis prepared for site-specific projects finds potential for significant impacts not already described in an existing EIS, another EIS or a supplement to an existing EIS may be warranted.

Upon providing public notice of a decision, supporting environmental documentation will be sent to all affected interests and made available to other publics on request. Decisions to implement site-specific projects are subject to administrative review when such decisions are made.

2.13 Interrelationships

BLM's PFO conducts many activities that require coordination between BLM, State, or other Federal agencies. Coordination has been ongoing throughout this planning effort. Coordination is conducted as a matter of course when implementing land use plan decisions through project development and site-specific activities.

As a part of this planning effort and in implementing on-the-ground activities, BLM conducts ESA, Section 7 consultation with the USFWS. In 2003, BLM and USFWS finalized a consultation agreement to establish an effective and cooperative ESA, Section 7, consultation process. The agreement defines the process, products, actions, schedule, and expectations of BLM and USFWS on project consultation. One Biological Assessment (BA) will be prepared to determine the effect of the preferred Alternative on all relevant listed, proposed, and candidate species, and associated critical habitat. The BA will expose all expected environmental effects, conservation actions, mitigation, and monitoring, including analysis of all direct and indirect effects of plan decisions and any interrelated and interdependent actions. As this plan's decisions are implemented, actions determined through environmental analysis to potentially affect species listed or candidate species for listing under ESA will initiate more site-specific consultation on those actions.

Consultation with the Arizona SHPO is also conducted, in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). BLM actions will also comply with other Federal environmental legislation, existing programmatic environmental analyses, land use plans, and vegetation treatment documents, such as the Clear Air Act (CAA), the CWA, and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), and with State and local government regulations

(Applicable Laws, Regulations, Policies, and Planning can be seen in Appendix C).

The Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670 et seq.) authorizes the Department of the Interior (DOI), in cooperation with State agencies responsible for administering fish and game laws, to plan, develop, maintain, and coordinate programs for conserving and rehabilitating wildlife, fish, and game on public lands within its jurisdiction. The plans must conform to overall land use and management plans for the lands involved. The plans could include habitat improvement projects and related activities and adequate protection for species of fish, wildlife, and plants considered endangered or threatened. BLM must also coordinate with suitable State agencies in managing State-listed plant and animal species when the State has formally made such designations. The PFO has two habitat HMPs for lands within the planning areas. These documents have satisfied the Sikes Act requirements in the past and will be reviewed in the context of these plans shortly after the records of decision are signed.

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for management of wildlife habitats on public lands, while the Arizona Game and Fish Department is responsible for managing wildlife populations and game harvest. Proclamation 7263, creating Agua Fria National Monument (Appendix A), states, "Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to enlarge or diminish the jurisdiction of the State of Arizona with respect to fish and wildlife management." In this regard, the State agency responsible for fish and wildlife management is the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD). Continued efforts would be made to coordinate with AGFD for opportunities to enhance wildlife habitat, species diversity, and riparian health. Coordination occurs between the agencies on management plans and activities to achieve the optimum health of wildlife species and populations. Currently, coordination efforts are conducted consistent with a statewide Memorandum of Understanding between the agencies. In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed giving Arizona Game and Fish Department cooperating agency status on Resource Management Plan efforts now being conducted in Arizona. To further promote interagency coordination, a Cooperative Agreement was signed between the agencies, establishing a liaison position in the Arizona Game and Fish Department. This liaison is assigned coordination responsibility on all ongoing land use plans and spends a portion of their work schedule in the Arizona State Office.

Regional transportation planning and construction of roadways and highways is generally conducted by State or regional agencies, such as Arizona Department of Transportation, county departments of transportation, and city transportation departments. When these agencies plan and develop roadways that cross public lands, BLM is involved in their design and contributes to environmental impact analysis. In that process, BLM will coordinate with the responsible agency to develop design features that minimize the fragmenting effect of the planned roadway. BLM will work with the responsible agency to evaluate and incorporate safe and effective wildlife crossings to ensure long term species viability and maintaining habitat connectivity. Where planned roadways potentially fragment other resources, such as (but not limited to) recreation routes or trails, grazing allotments, or mining operations, BLM will work with the responsible agency to provide continued connectivity for those purposes as well. BLM will also work with the agency to provide continued safe access to public lands from any developed roadway for recreation and other public land users.

2.14 Comparison of Impacts by Alternative

A summary comparison of impacts by Alternative can be found on Table 2-8.

Table 2-8. Summary Comparison of Impacts by Alternative

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
4.6 Impacts to Special Area Designations					
4.6.1 Fr Management of Special Area Designations	No impacts are expected.	Increased visitation along Bloody Basin Rd Bck Ctry Byways could lead to potential degradation of eligible WSR values. Similar effects could occur in Hassayampa River Wilderness from Constellation Mine Road Backcountry Byway.	-Impacts are expected to be similar to Alt B. No impact is expected from add'l WSR evals or from ACECs. -Harquahala Mountain ACEC would reduce effects of vehicles on the Harquahala Mountains Wilderness.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative C.	Impacts from designating new Back Country Byways are expected to be similar Alternative B. Impacts of Harquahala Mountain ONA ACEC would be similar to Alternative C.
4.6.2 From Lands and Realty Management	-No expected impacts. -Acquiring lands within wilderness areas and WSR corridors would benefit management and prevent development activities that increase disturbance. -Retaining Yarnell utility corridor could degrade the wilderness values.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.
4.6.3 From Management of Soil, Air, and Water Resources	-No impacts are expected. Air quality standards could reduce fugitive dust in ACECs. -Inventorying and filing water rights in Wilderness Areas would preserve the wilderness values of water sources.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.
4.6.4 From Biological Resource Management	Management could enhance eligible WSR segments, wilderness areas (WAs), and ACECs.	-Elimination of Larry Canyon ACEC would have no effect.- Management of Harquahala Mountain WHA would enhance values in Harquahala Mountains Wilderness.	-Management of pronghorn WHAs could enhance eligible WSR segments. Controls on vehicle routes and recreational development would help maintain	Effects of management for wildlife in the monument would be the same as in Alternative C, except more ACECs would be created.	The Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC and the movement corridors would protect wildlife habitat and help maintain natural conditions.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		-New wildlife waters may slightly reduce naturalness in wilderness areas.	biological resources. -Management of the Harquahala/Belmont/Big Horn wildlife corridor/ the Belmont/Big Horn WHA would enhance values in WAs.		Impacts of new wildlife waters would be the same as Alternative B.
4.6.5 From Cultural Resource Management	No impacts are expected.	Development of sites for public use could increase wildlife disturbance and litter. This could slightly decrease naturalness in wilderness areas. Increased visitor education and presence of people may reduce illegal dumping and other undesirable uses, but may reduce opportunities for solitude Conducting cultural inventory could reduce opportunities for solitude during data collection.	Impacts are expected to be similar to those described for Alt B, except the Badger Springs petroglyph site would have fewer facilities/create fewer impacts.	Impacts are expected to be similar to those described for Alt B, except the Wickenburg/Vulture SCRMA no public use thus reducing impacts in this area.	Potential impacts would be limited to Harquahala Mountains Wilderness Area and would be the same as described for Alternative B.
4.6.6 Fr Paleonto Res Mgnt	No impacts expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.
4.6.7 From Recreation Management	Increased visitation is expected to increase motorized use in eligible WSR segments and wilderness areas. This could progressively degrade values of these areas. Impacts to ACECs are not expected.	-Bck Ctry alloc should protect values along elig WSR segments.-Frnt Ctry/developed cmpgrnds could incrse motorized visits/area of people to elig WSR segment, degrading values. - Hieroglyphic Mtn SRMA could diminish solitude. Incrsed veh use could incrse fugitive dust entering Hells Cnyon Wilderness, obscuring vistas.	Impacts in the monument are the same as for Alternative B. Impacts on Hells Canyon Wilderness from the Hieroglyphic Mountains SRMA would be similar to those described for Alternative B.	Impacts in the monument are the same as for Alternative B. The phase-out of motorized activity in the Hieroglyphic Mountains would enhance solitude, naturalness, and visitor experience.	Impacts in the monument would be similar to those described for Alternative B. The Hieroglyphic Mountains SRMA would also be similar to Alternative B. No SRP-related impacts on wilderness areas, ACECs, or back country byways are expected.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
4.6.8 From Visual Resource Management	In the monument no impacts are expected. Within Bradshaw-Harquahala, proposed projects could lessen the quality of the recreation setting and viewshed by allowing human intrusions into visual landscapes.	Managing the Front Country to VRM Class III could allow visual intrusions that degrade the scenic quality of the eligible WSR segments. Other special area designations are not expected to be affected by VRM management.	Impacts in the monument would be similar to Alternative B except that they would mainly be limited to the northern WSR segment. Managing the Hassayampa River Wilderness to VRM Class II objectives would restrict visual impacts of projects.	Impacts to WSR would be similar to Alt C. - Managing the Harquahala Mountains ACEC to Class I would maintain the appearance of naturalness across a large landscape. - Managing the Sheep Mountain RNA ACEC and the Black Butte ONA ACEC to Class I will retain the natural settings of those areas.	Impacts to WSR would be similar to those under Alt C. -Impacts to wilderness areas would be similar to Alt A. Managing Harquahala Mtn ONA to VRM Class I would min visual intrusions into the landscape. Impacts of managing the Black Butte ONA to Class I objectives would be similar.
4.6.9 From Rangeland Management	Applying land health standards should maintain or improve habitat characteristics. No impacts to wilderness areas, ACECs, or back country byways are expected.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alt A, except riparian grazing would be limited to the winter season. Riparian and overall ecological conditions in the WSR corridor/the riparian corridor in the Hassayampa River Canyon Wilderness would improve.	Impacts to the riparian corridors would be similar to those described for Alternative B, except that the year-round restriction of grazing should further improve and enhance the wildlife and scenic values.	Impacts similar to those described for Alternative C.	Impacts similar to Alternative B.
4.6.10 From Minerals Management	-No impacts are expected in the monument. -Mining near wilderness areas and along Back Country byways could reduce solitude, increase noise, dust, and traffic; and detract from the visual setting. -In Bradshaw-Harquahala there is little or no leasable or locatable mineral potential, and no impacts are expected from future	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A, closing Tule Creek ACEC to all mineral development would benefit the resources that are important to ACEC designation.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B, except areas allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics be closed, thereby reducing the potential area for ground disturbance and maintaining the primitive open space.	Impacts from managing Tule Creek ACEC would be similar to those described for Alternative B, except that closing more area would be closed to mining.	Impacts would be the similar to those under Alternative D.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	development.				
4.6.11 From Fire Management	- Prescribed burning would affect the WSR by reducing visual values over the short term, until vegetation regenerates. Air quality/visibility could also be negatively affected. -Prescribed fire could temporarily increase runoff and erosion along the Agua Fria River. Over the long term, use of fire as a natural process in the monument should lead to increased ecosystem health.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A. Visitors would be restricted from parts of the wilderness during prescribed burns. The fire damage would detract from the visual setting until the vegetation recovers.	Impacts similar to Alternative B.	Impacts similar to Alternative B.	Impacts similar to Alternative B.
4.6.12 From Wild Horse and Burro Management	Impacts of vegetation damage, soil and vegetation trampling in gathering areas / trailing would continue to diminish the natural setting, especially near water sources and in canyons. Natural landscape settings would continue to exist in most areas.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Removing burros from the Harquahala HA would eliminate impacts to some Wilderness Areas. Trailing and vegetation impacts now occurring in Hells Canyon Wilderness would continue.	Impacts similar to Alternative C.	Impacts similar to Alternative C.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
4.6.13 From Management of Transportation and Public Access	-No impacts are expected on existing ACECs, the five wilderness areas, or the Harquahala Mountain Summit Road Back. -Country Byway. Veh rtes and developments are currently restricted to protect values, including riparian habitat and wildlife in proposed suitable WSR segments.	Impacts of establishing the Hieroglyphic Mountains SRMA could concentrate OHV use, and increase traffic, noise, and dust at the southwest edge of the Hell's Canyon wilderness. Impacts on suitable WSR segments would be the same as for Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative B.	Would enhance nonmotorized recreation settings and opportunities within the Hells Canyon wilderness. Impacts on suitable WSR segments would be the same as for Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative B.
4.6.14 From Management of Wilderness Characteristics	No direct impacts are expected. Indirect benefits could retain more primitive and natural conditions.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.
4.7 Impacts on Lands and Realty Management					

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
4.7.1 From Management of Special Area Designations	Wilderness areas would remain closed to rights-of-way and land use authorizations. Acquiring inholdings would block up federal ownership in sensitive resource areas.	-Special area designations would not preclude developing an urban transportation network. -Stipulations consistent with the protection of Tule Creek ACEC would be written into future authorizations. Locations, or the terms of use and rights-of-way could be restricted to protect Tule Creek. -The effects of wilderness areas would be the same as in Alt A.	-Lands adjoining Harquahala Mountains ACEC would be of higher priority for acquisition than other lands. -A utility corridor width of 2 miles would avoid impacts to archaeological sites. -The effects of wilderness areas would be the same as in Alt A. -The impacts from Tule Creek on lands actions would be the same as Alt B.	-Designating the Agua Fria Riparian Corridor ACEC would constrain the location of rights-of-way in the Black Canyon corridor. -The impacts from Tule Creek and Harquahala Mountains ONA would be the same as Alt B. - No new rights-of-way would be permitted in the Baldy Mtn ONA. Pvt interests could have to use a more circuitous and expensive route.-The effects of WAs would be the same as Alt A.	Impacts would be the same as Alternative A.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
4.7.2 From Lands and Realty Management	In the monument, land ownership would not change. No new or widened transportation corridors would be designated, though BLM might permit new rights-of-way. - Lands suitable for R&PP use would be issued on a case-by-case basis. -Major rights-of-way and communication sites would be issued across public lands on a case-by-case basis.	-Impacts in the monument would be similar to Alt A, except that the existing corridor would be narrowed. Future utility uses would locate in undisturbed areas, resulting in possible increased costs. -Land acquisition would consolidate mngemnt in five MUs and would likely reduce costs. -Impacts of land leases and patents for R&PP would be the same as Alt A. -Designating corridors would prevent the proliferation of major utility sys across public lands.	-BLM would issue no leases or patents for land within the monument to local govts or non-profit organizations under the R&PP Act. -Rights-of-way and communication sites would be similar to Alternative B, except the existing corridor would be eliminated from the monument. -Land acquisition would be similar to Alternative B, except that the lands would be consolidated into six MUs	-Impacts of new rights-of-way would be similar to Alternative B, except that the corridor in Bradshaw-Harquahala would be extended, not widened. -Land acquisition would be similar to similar to Alternative B, except that lands would be consolidated into seven MUs. -Land use authorizations would be similar to Alternative B, except that no new electric or gas corridors would be designated.	-Impacts of new rights-of-way within the monument would be the same as Alt B. -Land acquisition would be similar to Alternative C. -Impacts of land leases and patents for R&PP use would be similar to Alt A. -Land use authorizations would be the same as Alternative B.
4.7.3 From Management of Soil, Air, and Water Resources	Efforts to minimize impacts to soils, water, and air would result in increased project costs and possible project redesign or shifted location.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.
4.7.4 From Biological Resource Management	Acquisition of lands to enhance management of species is given a high priority and would result in acquisition of those areas in preference to others.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.
4.7.5 From Cultural Resource Management	The potential discovery of cultural and historical sites could cause restricted land use authorizations. Mitigation could increase project costs.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
4.7.6 From Paleontological Resource Management	No impact is expected, but should resources be discovered, land use authorizations could be restricted or relocated.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.
4.7.7 From Recreation Management	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.
4.7.8 From Visual Resource Management	Modification of rights-of-way to achieve VRM objectives could lead to increased costs.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.
4.7.9 From Rangeland Management	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.
4.7.10 From Minerals Management	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.
4.7.11 From Fire Management	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.
4.7.12 From Wild Horse and Burro Management	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.
4.7.13 From Management of Trans and Public Access	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.
4.7.14 From Management of Wilderness Characteristics	No impacts expected.	Allocations to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics would be closed to rights-of-way and inconsistent land use authorizations. Future utilities and private requestors would find other routes through these areas.	Impacts similar to Alternative B.	Impacts similar to Alternative B.	Impacts similar to Alternative B.
4.8 Impacts on Soil Resources					
4.8.1 From Management of Special Area Designations	70,900 acres of AFNM, including Perry Mesa ACEC would be protected from increased erosion and decreased soil moisture/productivity by	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A for eligible WSR segments. -In Bradshaw-Harquahala closing the fenced area of the Tule Creek ACEC to	In the monument, impacts would be similar to Alternative A for eligible WSR corridors. -In Bradshaw-Harquahala 8 ACECs,	Impacts in the monument would be similar to Alternative C. -In Bradshaw-Harquahala 10 ACECs, totaling 314,580 acres,	Impacts in the monument would be similar to Alternative C. -In Bradshaw-Harquahala, ACEC (111,450 acres) impacts

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	limiting motor vehicle use. -Existing designated Wilderness would be managed to maintain soil productivity.	motorized vehicles and grazing could reduce soil disturbance and compaction.	totaling 55,710 acres, would reduce soil erosion and improve soil moisture and productivity.	would have impacts similar to those under Alternative C.	would be similar to Alternative C.
4.8.2 From Lands and Realty Management	-Short term disturbance may occur from current activities. -In Bradshaw-Harquahala, land disposal and subsequent development could result in loss of soil productivity. Short term disturbance could result from utility, transportation/communications rights-of-way.	In the monument, no impacts are expected from land tenure adjustments or from utility and transportation corridors or communication sites. In Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative B.	Impacts similar to Alternative B.	Impacts similar to Alternative B.
4.8.3 From Management of Soil, Air, and Water Resources	-In the monument, soil resources are expected to improve through measures to reduce loss/improve productivity. -No impacts expected in the Bradshaw-Harquahala.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.
4.8.4 From Biological Resource Management	Proposals to improve habitat would contribute to soil improvement at specific locations, resulting in an overall slight improvement.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.
4.8.5 From Cultural Resource Management	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.
4.8.6 From Paleontological Resource Management	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.
4.8.7 From Recreation Management	In the monument, current recreation management practices could cause localized soil loss and	Impacts might occur in the Frnt Ctry and Passage RMZ as rec use incrses. -In Bradshaw-Harquahala,	Impacts in the monument would be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts in monument would be similar to Alt C, though more area would be allocated to	Impacts in monument would be similar to Alternative C.D

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	reduced soil productivity. -Lack of OHV management in Bradshaw-Harquahala could lead to progressively increasing soil erosion, compaction, and overall loss of soil productivity. -Concentrated recreation and OHV use could result in the loss of or reduced vegetation cover, soil compaction, and streambank instability in riparian and wash areas, thus reducing soil moisture and soil productivity.	vehicle route designations and closures in Tule Creek ACEC and allocations to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics would slightly reduce soil impacts. -Area designations within the Castle Hot Springs and Harquahala MUs, would slightly reduce soil disturbance, erosion, and compaction by OHV use. -Selected route closures and planned, sited, and engineered recreation facilities are designed to reduce soil impacts of recreation activities.	In Bradshaw-Harquahala impacts would be similar to Alternative B, but MUs would slightly reduce soil disturbance, erosion, and compaction by OHV use. Soil erosion from improper events and OHV use would be lessened by implementing vehicle route designations throughout the Bradshaw-Harquahala.	Back County RMZ. -Impacts would be reduced in the southern portion of the castle Hot Springs MU by phasing out motorized uses. -Eliminating recreational vehicle use in designated MUs would reduce soil erosion. -Increased BLM signing, OHV route development and connectivity, public education, and better managed motorized and non-motorized recreation in SRMAs would lessen impacts to soils over the long term.	Route closures would likely reduce soil disturbance, erosion, and compaction by OHV use. -Impacts in the Bradshaw-Harquahala would be similar to Alternative B, except vehicular travel would be curtailed in allocations to maintainor enhance wilderness characteristics and the Harquahala Mountains and Black Butte ONAs. Impacts of vehicular travel would be curtailed by eliminating vehicle use in Tule Creek ACEC.
4.8.8 Fr Vis Res Mgnt	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.
4.8.9 From Rangeland Management	Implementing guidelines adopted in Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration would improve soil conditions.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A, except grazing would be limited in riparian areas to the winter. This would encourage more rapid recovery of riparian vegetation and reduce impacts to soils from grazing.	Impacts similar to Alternative B, except grazing in riparian areas would be eliminated, increasing soil cover and reducing streambank damage.	Cessation of grazing throughout the planning area would give the greatest benefit to soils of any alternative.	Impacts similar to Alternative B.
4.8.11 From Fire Management	-The use of heavy equipment and mechanical thinning of trees could increase the potential for erosion. Soil moisture and productivity could be reduced in the short term, but increased in the long term.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A, except that fire use would be allowed in adapted ecosystems. When lightning fires occur, larger wildfires could be allowed, resulting in short term increases in soil loss.	Impacts similar to Alternative B.	Impacts similar to Alternative B.	Impacts similar to Alternative B.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	-Prescribed burning would reduce soil erosion. -Full suppression in fire adapted communities could cause herbaceous cover to decline with related soil effects.				
4.8.13 From Management of Transportation and Public Access	Increased soil erosion is expected from increased visitation, multiplying numbers of routes, and greater use of OHVs. Bank washes could be broken down and made unstable in wash "play" areas.	In the monument, impacts might occur in the Frnt Ctry and Passage Zones. The net reduction of 33 route mi. would likely reduce these effects. -In Bradshaw-Harquahala route closures in Tule Creek ACEC and allocations to maintain or enhance wilderness charac would slightly reduce soil disturbance, erosion, and compaction by OHV use.	-Impacts in the monument would be similar to those discussed for Alternative B, except the net reduction of 44 miles of route would marginally protect more soil resources. -Reducing vehicle traffic routes in the MUs would slightly reduce soil disturbance, erosion, and compaction by OHV use.	-Impacts in the monument would be similar to Alternative C, except would provide the most protection due to route closures. -Restricting vehicle use to designated routes would further reduce soil impacts in all other parts of the planning area.	-Impacts in the monument would be similar Alternative C. The reduction in route mileage would reduce soil disturbance more than Alternatives B and C, but less than Alternative D. -Soil erosion caused by vehicular travel would be curtailed in Tule Creek ACEC, and by reducing cross-country travel.
4.8.14 From Management of Wilderness Characteristics	No impacts expected.	56,040 acres would be alloc for wilderness charact. Soil disturbances, compaction, and erosion caused by human induced activities would be reduced.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alt B except that 107,510 acres would be alloc. Soil disturbance would be reduced the most in this Alt.	Impacts would be similar to Alt B except that 91,480 acres would be allocated. This would provide more protection than Alt B, but less than Alts C and E.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alt B except that 96,420 acres would be allocated. Soil protection would be more than Alts B and D, but less than Alt C.
4.9 Impacts on Air Quality					
4.9.1 From Management of Special Area Designations	-Restrictions resulting from special area designations are likely to increase emissions because of population growth and increases in OHV use. -In Bradshaw-Harquahala, BLM would continue to	Recreation prescription in ACECs, RNAs and SRMAs would shift OHV users to sites where OHV recreation is allowed and intensify use in remaining areas. The result would be (1) reduced localized air quality	-Designation of Bk Ctry byways could attract more regional OHV users. This is not expected to increase regional OHV use or regional fugitive dust emissions.	-The relative shift in air quality impacts between newly restricted areas and the remaining accessible areas would be greatest. -Air quality effects and fugitive dust emissions	Site-Specific prescriptions and restrictions applied on ACECs (including ONAs), along with cultural and wildlife management prescriptions, would shift

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	prohibit OHV use in five wilderness areas (96,820 acres) and encourage OHV use on one back country byway (Harquahala Mountain Summit Road).	impacts in the new restricted areas and (2) increased temporary and localized, degraded air quality in the remaining OHV areas.	-In Bradshaw-Harquahala, seven ACECs would further shift OHV use and possible air quality impacts. Reducing vehicle travel routes and use in Harquahala Mountains ONA would reduce fugitive dust emissions in the immediate area.	from vehicular travel and OHV use would be curtailed by eliminating or mitigating recreation vehicle use in the Sheep Mountain RNA.	the locations of increases in OHV use and resulting fugitive dust and emissions.
4.9.2 From Lands and Realty Management	-Land disposal actions would not delay the region's compliance with the air quality standards. -New residential development on previously rural BLM land would have a minor effect immediately downwind from each new development. -Implementing available dust control best management practices would ensure that impacts would be temporary and limited to the immediate area of the construction. -Ongoing maintenance and improvement of facilities and roadways would require use of construction equipment. This would generate fugitive dust and tailpipe emissions.	-Narrowing the existing utility corridor is not expected to affect air quality, but it would shift the location of future air quality emissions into a smaller area. -In Bradshaw-Harquahala new utility corridors would be designated for future expected demands. Any such construction would likely generate fugitive dust and tailpipe emissions. -Impacts from ongoing maintenance and improvements of facilities and roadways would be similar to Alternative A.	-In the monument, elimination of Black Canyon utility corridor would maintain current emissions. Impacts from ongoing maintenance would be similar to Alternative A. -In Bradshaw-Harquahala impacts would be the same as Alternative B. -Any construction in non-attainment areas would be subject to comply with county air quality rules.	Impacts in the monument would be similar to those described for Alternative C. The portion of the Black Canyon Multi-Use corridor would be extended. If utilities elect to use this corridor in the future, they would generate criteria pollutants and fugitive dust through earthmoving and the use of heavy equipment.	Impacts similar to Alternative C.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
4.9.3 From Management of Soil, Air, and Water Resources	Improvements resulting from management of soil, water, and air resources are expected to reduce emissions of fugitive dust.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.
4.9.4 From Biological Resource Management	In the monument, measures to protect biological resources, including the use of prescribed fire may result in small amounts of temporary, localized emissions. -In Bradshaw-Harquahala, measures to protect ground cover, biological areas, and habitats would minimize impacts. -Implementation of Land Health Standards would reduce production of windblown fugitive dust not related to roads.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Limitations in WHAs and ACECs would improve air quality in these areas. Emissions might increase in remaining areas where OHV use and recreational site developments are allowed.	Motor vehicle routes that fragment pronghorn habitat and cross known movement corridors would be closed, limited, or mitigated. The shift in impacts between newly restricted areas and the remaining areas would be greatest under Alternative D.	Impacts similar to Alternative C.
4.9.5 From Cultural Resource Management	No impacts expected.	Increased visitation to cultural sites developed for public use is expected to slightly increase emissions of criteria pollutants and fugitive dust.	Impacts similar to Alternative B except to a lesser degree due to less High Public Use designations.	-In the monument, impacts from vehicle traffic would be limited to Bloody Basin Road and the Pueblo la Plata area. Levels of airborne pollutants would be lower than under Alts B or C. -In Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts generated by site visits would be lower than Alts B and C.	In the monument, impacts would be lower than Alternative B and greater than Alternatives C and D. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts would likely be lower than Alternative B and greater than Alternatives C and D.
4.9.6 Fr Paleont Res Mgt	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
4.9.7 From Recreation Management	-Current recreation uses could generate emissions of criteria pollutants and fugitive dust from OHV travel, as well as emissions and smoke from campfires and stoves. -Prohibiting cross-country, OHV use in the monument would reduce levels of criteria pollutants and fugitive dust. In Bradshaw-Harquahala OHV travel would generate increased emissions of criteria pollutants and fugitive dust.	-Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A, except increased management actions in SRMAs and RMZs are expected to locally address production of fugitive dust and could reduce dust emissions in those areas. -Building and maintaining roadways, trails, and recreation facilities would generate temporary and short-lived emissions of criteria pollutants and fugitive dust from heavy equipment and earthmoving.	-In the monument impacts would be similar to Alternative B, except that more vehicle routes would be closed or limited to motorized vehicles. -In Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts would be similar to Alternative B, except BLM would designate seven ACECs, further shifting OHV use and possible air quality impacts. -Implementation of SRMAs could reduce air quality effects/fugitive dust emitted by improper activity, scheduled OHV events/ intensive OHV use.	-Impacts are expected to be similar to Alt C except that: The relative shift in impacts between newly restricted areas and the remaining areas would be greatest because of restrictions on the most land. -In the monument, BLM would issue no SRPs. This would lead to a decrease in emissions of criteria pollutants. -Closing more routes would improve air quality and lessen dust emissions. -Impacts of SRMAs would be similar to Alternative C.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative C.
4.9.8 From Visual Resource Management	No impacts expected.	Restrictions to development may slightly reduce dust emissions.	Impacts similar to Alternative B.	Impacts similar to Alternative B.	Impacts similar to Alternative B.
4.9.9 From Rangeland Management	May have increased production of windblown dust in areas denuded by frequent livestock concentration. Implementation of Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Management is expected to reduce dust emissions by increasing ground cover.	Impacts similar to Alternative A, except winter season use of riparian areas would lead to increased vegetation densities in those areas, potentially slightly reducing localized windblown dust.	Impacts similar to Alternative B, except closure of riparian areas to livestock grazing year round would lead to higher vegetation densities and more rapid growth than Alternative B.	Cessation of grazing would result in overall increases in ground cover, reducing windblown dust emissions more than any other alternative.	Impacts similar to Alternative B.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
4.9.10 From Minerals Management	-No impact is expected on the monument. -Within the Bradshaw-Harquahala, mining/associated activities could cause localized increases in fugitive dust/ vehicular exhaust. These are expected to be relatively small.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Alternative D would reduce the amount of land open mining more than other alternatives. This action would reduce emissions of criteria pollutants and fugitive dust.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.
4.9.11 From Fire Management	-Use of prescribed fire would generate short term smoke emissions. Fire prescriptions minimize smoke drift into populated areas and Class I or II airsheds. Impacts are minimized. -The use of heavy equipment and the mechanical thinning of trees would generate emissions of criteria pollutants as well as fugitive dust.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A except: Naturally occurring wildfires could be managed to meet resource objectives. The opportunity for smoke drift into populated areas and/or Class I or II airsheds would increase over Alternative A.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B.
4.9.12 From Wild Horse and Burro Management	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.	No impacts expected.
4.9.13 From Management of Transportation and Public Access	-Prohibiting cross-country OHV use in the monument would reduce levels of criteria pollutants and fugitive dust. -In Bradshaw-Harquahala OHV travel would generate increased emissions of criteria pollutants and fugitive dust.-Any potential	-In the monument, 140 miles of route would be left open and 33 net miles of route would be closed. Route closures could impacts. -In Bradshaw-Harquahala routes would be reduced by 82 miles. Route closures would concentrate more	-In the monument, impacts would be similar to Alt B, except that more vehicle routes would be closed or limited to motorized vehicles (44 miles). -In Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts of	-In the monument, negative impacts would be the least due to the highest amount of route closures over other Alt (122 miles). -In Bradshaw-Harquahala 1,108 miles of routes would be closed. The route	-In the monument, Impacts are expected to be similar to Alt B, except that more net route miles would be closed (70 miles). -Impacts in the Bradshaw Harquahala Planning Area would be similar to those described under

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	opening of new routes would increase fugitive dust during construction as well as increase emissions created by vehicles once the route is opened.	vehicles on remaining roads and thereby increase localized air quality impacts and fugitive dust levels. -Building and maintaining routes would generate temporary and short-lived emissions and fugitive dust from heavy equipment and earthmoving.	OHV use would be similar to Alternative B except BLM would designate seven ACECs, further shifting OHV use and possible air quality impacts.	closures would reduce opportunities for air quality emissions and fugitive dust.	Alternative B.
4.9.14 From Management of Wilderness Characteristics	No impacts expected.	56,040 acres would be allocated to the management of wilderness characteristics, which would limit or restrict vehicle use. This could intensity vehicle travel into remaining areas resulting in reduced localized air quality impacts in newly restricted sites and increased impacts in other areas.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B, except that more area would be allocated to the management of wilderness characteristics (107,510 acres).	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative C, except that more area would be allocated to the management of wilderness characteristics (91,480 acres).	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative D except that less area would be allocated to the management of wilderness characteristics (96,420 acres).
4.10 Impacts on Water Resources					
4.10.1 From Management of Special Area Designations	-Perry Mesa ACEC is likely to continue to experience minor degrad of water quality. -Eligible WSR seg would continue to be managed for nonimpairment to WSR values. -In Bradshaw-Harquahala mgment of wilderness areas would improve hydrologic function.	Impacts in the monument would be similar to Alt A. -In Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts in wilderness areas would be the same as for Alt A. In addition, withdrawal of Tule Creek from mineral development would eliminate disturbance to streambanks, soils, and ground cover.	Designating 4 ACECs in the monument will close the areas to grazing/veh. This would encourage revegetation of disturbed areas/would improve hydrologic function. -In the Bradshaw-Harquahala designation of six ACECs would have effects similar to those described above.	Impacts in the monument would be similar to those described for Alt A. -In Bradshaw-Harquahala impacts would be similar to Alternative C, but Alternative D would close more areas to mineral entry.	Impacts in the monument are expected to be similar to Alternative A. In Bradshaw-Harquahala, management prescriptions for four ACECs would result in impacts similar to Alternative C.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
4.10.2 From Lands and Realty Management	-Water quality could be affected by construction/ maintenance of facilities authorized under right-of-way. -Impacts from land disposal of 54,370 acres include the potential loss of vegetation from development/possible increased erosion and sediment yield. -Acquiring larger blocks of BLM managed land could improve vegetation conditions/reduce stream sedimentation.	-In the monument, narrowing Black Canyon utility corridor could reduce options for locating towers or other facilities, which could result in slightly higher than normal impacts. -Impacts of disposal of 58,400 acres of public land similar to those described for Alternative A.	-Impacts of rights-of-way are similar to Alternative A. Eliminating the Black Canyon utility corridor would prohibit more utility right-of-way allocations. -The impacts of disposing of 49,100 acres of BLM lands would be similar to Alternative B. -Utility corridors and communication sites would have impacts similar to Alternative B.	Impacts in the monument would be the same Alternative C. The impacts on water resources from acquiring private or State lands would be similar to those described for Alternative B. Utility corridors and communication sites would have impacts similar to Alternative B.	Impacts in both planning areas would be similar to Alternative B.
4.10.3 From Management of Soil, Air, and Water Resources	Management actions designed to improve soil conditions would have the affect of improving water quality.	Alternative B would provide more protection for water resources than Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B, but more protection of water resources.	Would provide the most protection of water resources.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative C.
4.10.4 From Biological Resource Management	Designating the Agua Fria River riparian corridor would improve functional condition of the riparian zone. In Bradshaw-Harquahala impacts are expected from acquiring water rights to maintain or enhance spring/riparian habitats.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.
4.10.5 Fr Cult'l Res Mgnt	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.
4.10.6 Fr Paleont ResMgnt	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.
4.10.7 From Recreation Management	-Areas disturbed by concentrated recreation use	In Front Country and Passage RMZs in the	In the monument, impacts would be similar	In the monument, impacts would be similar	Impacts in the monument are expected to be similar

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	would continue to contribute to stream sediments and turbidity. -Cross-country OHV use could increase soil erosion, sediment yield, damage to banks of drainages, and sediment deposition. -In Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts are expected from the increased water use by visitors and the proliferation of unplanned and unmanaged recreational trails and facilities.	monument, OHV use would degrade water resources. In Bradshaw-Harquahala allocating eight SRMAs and two areas to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics for management of recreation use could reduce soil erosion and sediment yield into drainages.	to Alternative B, except the Front Country RMZ would be reduced and the Passage RMZ would be reduced. Impacts under Alternative C are expected to be similar to those described for Alternative B, but to a lesser degree.	to Alternative C, except the Front Country RMZ would be reduced and the Passage RMZ would be increased. In Bradshaw-Harquahala impacts are expected to be similar to those described for Alternative C, but to a lesser degree.	to those under Alternatives C and D. Riparian and upland vegetation would benefit from decreased access, resulting in improved functional condition of riparian zones. Impacts In Bradshaw-Harquahala are expected to be similar to those described for Alternative C.
4.10.8 From Visual Resource Management	No impacts are expected.	Implementation of VRM standards could reduce the disturbance of new projects, reducing sediment loading and improving water quality.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.
4.10.9 From Rangeland Management	-Impacts would include trampling and reduced vegetation, resulting in increased soil erosion and reduced streambank stability in riparian areas. -In Bradshaw- Harquahala implementation of the Land Health Standards and the Guidelines for Rangeland Health would result in overall water quality improvements.	Impacts are expected to would be similar to Alternative A, except limiting grazing in riparian areas to the winter season would reduce bank instability and increase riparian vegetation cover, slightly reducing grazing impacts to water resources.	Impacts are expected to would be similar to those describe for Alt A, except the prohibition of grazing in riparian areas would result in more rapid bank and vegetation recovery, further increasing riparian vegetation cover and bank stability, further reducing grazing impacts to water resources.	Alternative D would cause the greatest improvement for water resources and riparian zone vegetation.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
4.10.10 From Minerals Management	-No impacts are expected impact in the monument. -Mining is expected to somewhat degrade water quality through increased sedimentation. -Extraction of saleable mineral from flood plains could impair stream hydrologic function.	No impacts are impacts expected in the monument. In Bradshaw-Harquahala Impacts would be similar to those discussed in Alternative A.	No impacts are expected in the monument. In Bradshaw-Harquahala impacts would be substantially lower than Alternative B because more land would be removed from mineral development.	-No impacts are impacts expected in the monument. -Impacts In Bradshaw-Harquahala would be lowest under this Alternative since the most amount of land would be removed from mineral development.	-No impacts are expected in the monument. -In Bradshaw-Harquahala impacts would be similar to Alt A, except that riparian areas in the Black Canyon corridor would be closed to mineral material disposal.
4.10.11 From Fire Management	-Prescribed fire would temporarily result in increased surface water turbidity and sedimentation. Vegetative composition will improve in the long-term. -Full suppression of wildfires could lower infiltration, increase runoff, increase erosion, and increase sedimentation. -Use of heavy equipment and construction could increase soil loss and turbidity and sedimentation of waterways.	Fire use would have impacts similar to those described in Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.
4.10.12 From Wild Horse and Burro Management	-No impacts are expected to monum. In Bradshaw-Harquahala, maintaining AMLs in the Lake Pleasant HMA and removing burros in the Harquahala HA, would allow heavily used areas to recover/min impacts to water quality/ hydrologic function.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
4.10.13 From Management of Transportation and Public Access	-Unplanned and unmanaged routes could continue to degrade stream bank stability and water resources. -In Bradshaw-Harquahala unlimited cross-country OHV use on the public lands west of Highway 93 could increase soil erosion, sediment yield, damage to banks of drainages, and sediment deposition	In the monument OHV use could continue to degrade water resources-Closing routes would reduce impacts. Riparian and upland vegetation would benefit from decreased access, resulting in improved functional condition of riparian zones. -In Bradshaw-Harquahala, maintaining a diverse network of motorized vehicle routes would harden some areas.	Impacts are expected to be similar to those described for Alternative B, but to a lesser degree due to an increase in closed miles of motorized routes.	Impacts are expected to be similar to those described for Alternative C, but to a significantly lesser degree due to a greater net closure of motorized travel routes.	In the monument, impacts would be similar to those under Alternative C and D. Impacts In Bradshaw-Harquahala are expected to be similar to those described for Alternative C.
4.10.14 From Management of Wilderness Characteristics	No impacts are expected	In the monument, no impacts are expected. -In Bradshaw-Harquahala, 56,040 acres would be allocated for the management of wilderness characteristics. This could reduce soil erosion and sediment yield into drainages.	Impacts are expected to would be similar to Alternative B, except that a larger area would be allocated for management of wilderness characteristics (107,510 acres).	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B except that 91,480 acres would be allocated for management of wilderness characteristics.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B except that 96,420 acres would be allocated for management of wilderness characteristics.
4.11 Impacts on Biological Resources					

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
4.11.1 From Management of Special Area Designations	Managing WSR eligible segments will reduce vehicle impacts to wildlife and habitat; reduce stream bank erosion, water quality degradation, and disturbance to riparian vegetation. -Within Bradshaw-Harquahala, vehicles on the Harquahala Mountain Summit Scenic Road Back Country Byway would occasionally disturb bighorn sheep and kill desert tortoise. -Management of designated Wilderness protects vegetation and wildlife habitat through prohibition of OHV use.	In the monument, management of WSR segments would have impacts similar to Alternative A. -Within Bradshaw-Harquahala, Tule Creek ACEC would improve Gila topminnow and riparian habitat, as well as desert tortoise habitat. Closing the stream channel to vehicle use and grazing and withdrawing this area from mineral entry would limit habitat damage from mining equipment. -Increased recreational use of the Constellation Road Back Country Byway would increase wildlife disturbance. Making Bloody Basin Road into a Back Country Byway could increase wildlife deaths from vehicle impacts, as well as impede pronghorn movement and breeding.	In the monument, ACECs would have no new impacts to wildlife. -In Bradshaw-Harquahala, management of seven ACECs will increase bighorn sheep forage; protect unique vegetation communities; reduce habitat fragmentation; protect spring sources; protect riparian areas; protect high value desert tortoise habitat; and protect important raptor nesting sites. -The designation of these 10 ACECs would add additional protection to 60,420 acres of Category I desert tortoise habitat, 15,310 acres of Category II habitat and 2,050 acres of Category III habitat as well as emphasize protection of 10.4 miles of riparian habitat.	In the monument, impacts would be similar to Alternative C. Within the Bradshaw-Harquahala, the eight ACECs will have impacts similar to those described in Alternative C, but over a larger area. The designation of these nine ACECs would add additional protection to 66,940 acres of Category I desert tortoise habitat, 167,710 acres of Category II habitat and 6,000 acres of Category III habitat as well as emphasize protection of 49.5 miles of riparian habitat.	In the monument, impacts of designating Bloody Basin Road as a back country byway would be similar to those described for Alternative B. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, management of four ACECs would be similar to that described in Alternative C. Management of designated Wilderness would have the same impacts as in alternative A. Designation of 4 ACECs would add additional protection to I desert tortoise habitat, as well as emphasize protection of 1.7 miles of riparian habitat.
4.11.2 From Lands and Realty Management	In the monument, existing utility right-of-ways could temporarily disturb vegetation for wildlife habitat, and provide sites for invasive species encroachment. -In Bradshaw-Harquahala, acquisition of lands to	In the monument, narrowing the utility corridor would reduce the likelihood of impacting wildlife habitats. -In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, disposal of 53,143 acres would reduce wildlife habitat, including	In the monument, eliminating the utility corridor would reduce the potential for the impacts described in Alternative A. -In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts from acquisition would be similar to Alternative B.	-In the monument, impacts are the same as in Alt C. -In Bradshaw-Harquahala, building and maintaining facilities in transportation and utility corridors and at communication sites	In the monument, impacts are the same as Alternative B. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts from acquisition and disposal would be the same as Alternative B.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	consolidate BLM management would improve wildlife habitats. -Increased corridors, along with more communication sites, could lead to more habitat disturbance, prevent wildlife movement, result in loss of habitat, result in human presence and harassment, displace individual animals, and facilitate long-term human population growth. -Building and operating facilities in these corridors could create barriers to wildlife movement and disturb Category I, II, and III tortoise habitat.	10,709 acres of desert tortoise habitat. -Acquisition of lands would help consolidate blocks of BLM land and add high value resources to those already being managed by BLM. -The impacts of utility and transportation corridors would be the same as described in alternative A, except the Black Canyon Corridor would be widened 1 mile to the west. No impacts are expected within the life of the plan.	Disposal of 49,100 acres of BLM land would also have similar impacts to Alternative B. -Transportation and utility corridors would have similar impacts as described for Alternative A, except the Black Canyon Corridor would be widened 2 miles to the west.	would have impacts similar to Alternative A. -The Black Canyon would be expanded south. This may increase the possibility of having power line towers impacting sensitive resources. Impacts from acquiring private or state lands would be similar to those in Alternative B.	Impacts of utility and transportation corridors would be similar to Alternatives B and C as the Black Canyon Corridor would be widened. Impacts from acquiring private or state lands would be similar to those in Alternative B.
4.11.3 From Management of Soil, Air, and Water Resources	Plans to maintain or improve watershed conditions, soil cover, and water flows would maintain or improve riparian vegetation quality, species diversity, and water quality in select drainages.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A.
4.11.4 From Biological Resource Management	In the monument, proposed landscape improvements would improve riparian habitats. Continued stocking of native fish would increase the overall viability of sensitive native species.	Implementation of the Land Health Standards would make progress toward achieving desired plant communities, and reducing invasive species. Habitat needs of special status species would be a high priority.	-Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B, except: -In the monument, management of the WHA for pronghorn would limit or mitigate vehicular access, prohibit developing new recreational facilities, require all fences to meet -	-Impacts to biological resources would be similar to Alternative B, except: -In the monument, impacts of the Pronghorn WHA would be similar to Alternative C, except that the removal of fences in the absence of	-Impacts to biological resources would be similar to Alternative B, except: -In the monument, impacts to pronghorn would be similar to Alternative C, except seasonal use restrictions on SRPs during the

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	-Modification of livestock fencing would improve pronghorn movement. -In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, protection measures on specific stream reaches would improve wildlife habitat along them. -With Arizona Game and Fish, acquisition of water rights could reduce competition for water and ensure legal availability and maintenance of flows.-Use of native species for restoration of degraded rangelands would reestablish native plant communities and improve wildlife habitat.-Protection of significant cliffs for nesting raptors would improve nesting conditions for sensitive raptor species. In the vicinity of these cliffs, limits to use by burros and restrictions on rights-of-way would protect the foraging habitat of the same birds. -Protection of the bighorn lambing areas in the Harquahala Mountains would increase forage and reproductive success in sheep populations.	-Reintroduction, transplanting, and supplemental stocking of wildlife would contribute to conservation and recovery of T&E species. -Implementing desert tortoise management standards would protect tortoise populations and habitat. -DFC objectives would protect and conserve priority habitats and species contribute to recovery of T&E species. -Wildlife water availability would ensure access. Distribution and abundance of some species would be enhanced. Actions to protect springs and seeps would prevent overexploitation. -Prohibiting domestic sheep and goat grazing by desert bighorn sheep habitat will reduce the likelihood of disease transmission. -Guidance on exotic species management would emphasize the restoration and maintenance of native species.	BLM standards, and emphasize management of wildlife habitats. Prescribed burns would improve pronghorn forage and reduce invasive species. -The management of Belmont-Big Horn Mountains and the Date Creek Mountains WHAs would improve species distribution and maintain genetic diversity. They would also ensure bighorn sheep are given priority consideration in future road improvements.-The Upper Agua Fria River Basin WHA would reduce wildlife-vehicle conflicts and improve pronghorn and mule deer movement.-The designation of the WHAs would add additional protection to 6,520 acres of Category I desert tortoise habitat, 129,590 acres of Category II habitat and 7,840 acres of Category III habitat as well as 14.7 miles of riparian habitat by emphasizing wildlife habitat management in these areas.	livestock grazing would greatly reduce habitat fragmentation.-Impacts of management for the Date Creek WHA would be similar to those described in Alternative C, except that it would futher reduce habitat fragmentation and loss of tortoise habitat. -Impacts of management for the Upper Agua Fria River Basin WHA would be similar to those described for Alternative C; except they would be applied to a larger area and removal of all fences in the absence of livestock grazing would further facilitate big game movement.-The designation of the WHAs would add additional protection to 2,850 acres of Category II habitat and 3,630 acres of Category III habitat as well as 5 miles of riparian habitat by emphasizing wildlife habitat management in these areas.	fawning season would reduce human caused impacts.-Impacts of management for WHAs would be similar to those described for Alternative C. The designation of the WHAs would add additional protection to 3,610 acres of Category I desert tortoise habitat, 129,340 acres of Category II habitat and 4,040 acres of Category III habitat as well as 14.7 miles of riparian habitat by emphasizing wildlife habitat management in these areas.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
4.11.5 From Cultural Resource Management	Management actions for cultural resources that prohibit surface disturbance near known archaeological sites would protect vegetation and wildlife habitat in those areas.	In the monument, development of High public use at four sites could degrade biological resources. Development of four Moderate public use areas would have fewer impacts. No impact is expected from Low public use sites.-In Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts from public use would depend on site location, size, and surrounding habitat. In desert tortoise habitat, the decision to accept no net loss of habitat would reduce impacts from site development.	In the monument, impacts of two High public use areas would be similar to those described for Alternative B, but to a lesser degree. Impacts of developing eight Moderate public use sites would be similar to those described in Alternative B, but on more sites. Overall, impacts are expected to be lower than in Alternative B.-Impacts in Bradshaw-Harquahala are expected to be similar to Alternative B, but in fewer locations.	In the monument, impacts from developing the two Moderate public use sites described would be similar to those described for Alternative B, but at fewer sites. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts of public use development would be similar to those described in Alternative B, but in fewer locations than Alternative C.	In the monument, impacts of High public use at three sites and Moderate public use at four sites would be similar to those described for Alternative B. Within the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts of public use development would be similar to those described for Alternative B.
4.11.6 Fr Paleont Res Mgnt	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.
4.11.7 From Recreation Management	In the monument, recreation uses would be allowed if they are consistent with the proclamation. In Bradshaw-Harquahala, current levels of recreation management would inadequately protect biological resources. Informal concentrated recreational use areas would continue to develop and grow causing increasing levels of habitat loss and disturbance. The location and use of these	In the monument, Front Country and Passage zones could lead to some additional disturbances to wildlife habitats. Campgrounds could disturb pronghorn movement and fawning behavior. Designation of 12,700 acres of Back Country, would result in less ground disturbance to vegetation and wildlife habitat. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, seasonally restricting motorized events in Category I and II desert	In the monument, impacts would be similar to Alternative B, except impacts of visitor use in Front Country would affect 42,410 acres and 70 acres of Passage RMZ. The Badger Springs campground could potentially affect pronghorn behavior and fawning success on Black Mesa. Impacts from Back Country would be similar to Alternative B, but the zone would increase to 28,420 acres.	In the monument, impacts to biological resources would be similar to Alternative B, except impacts in Front Country would affect only 1,530 acres and 990 acres of Passage Zone. The Back Country would be expanded to include 68,380 acres. Impacts from allocating a Passage zone would be similar to Alternative B except that the zone would consist of 990	In the monument, Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B, except impacts of visitor use in Front Country would affect 12,440 acres and 1,300 acres of Passage RMZ. Since Back Country would include 57,200 acres, the impacts to wildlife described in Alternative B would be over a much larger area. Within the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	areas would continue to be unplanned and may conflict with sensitive biological resources, priority species, or priority habitats.	tortoise habitat would avoid impacts to desert tortoises. Limiting designation of rock crawling sites would protect resources. In the Table Mesa, Hieroglyphic Mountains, and San Domingo SRMAs, development of OHV staging areas would destroy the vegetation and habitat in those sites.	Impacts from allocating a Passage zone would be similar to Alternative B, except that the zone would occupy just 70 acres. Impacts of staging areas and route designation would be reduced from Alternative B.	acres. In Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts from OHV staging areas and route designations would be reduced from Alternative C. Shifting use in the Hieroglyphics SRMA from motorized to non-motorized would reduce habitat fragmentation as well as disturbance and displacement of wildlife.	from staging areas and route designations would be similar to those described for Alternative C.
4.11.8 From Visual Resource Management	Assigning VRM Class I or II could limit the design and location of some wildlife management developments. This could adversely affect wildlife populations. There are 96,820 acres of VRM Class I.	Impacts to would be similar to those under Alternative A, except that the area in VRM Class I would be 96,820 acres and VRM Class II would be allocated to 437,579 acres.	Impacts to would be similar to those under Alternative B, except that the area in VRM Class I would increase to 100,456 acres and the area in VRM Class II would increase to 449,022 acres.	Impacts to would be similar to those under Alternative B, except that the area in VRM Class I would decrease to 298,309 acres and the area in VRM Class II would decrease to 340,877 acres.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B, except that the area in VRM Class I would increase to 116,132 acres and the area in VRM Class II would increase to 454,868 acres.
4.11.9 From Rangeland Management	Implementing the Land Health Standards would reduce soil erosion, restore functional conditions of riparian habitats, and reduce the presence of invasive species. Implementing would prioritize the habitat needs of special status species where wildlife and other land use conflict. Implementing changes in	Impacts of Land Health Standards are the same as in Alternative A. Applying the Special Ephemeral rule could result in the increase of native grass production, shrub and tree cover, and habitat complexity. Retirement of allotments could increase plant	Impacts are expected to be similar to those described for Alternative B, except: Impacts of closing riparian areas to grazing would occur quicker and could be more pronounced. A seasonal grazing closure in the Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC during bighorn lambing	The affects of removing all livestock from federal lands in both planning areas would be similar to those described for riparian and upland areas under Alternative C. However, Alternative D would affect a much larger area. Eliminating all range improvements that serve	Impacts are expected to be similar to those described in Alternative B.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	grazing practices would increase vegetation density and cover. Fence modifications would improve big game movement. Development of water facilities for grazing may improve water availability for some species, while being mortally dangerous to others. Congregation of livestock in and around water developments can result in some habitat loss. Congregations also attract cowbirds, which are nest parasites to other birds, including the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher.	diversity and habitat complexity. In the monument, limiting riparian areas to winter use would increase the diversity and abundance of plant species and the complexity of the wildlife habitat. In Bradshaw-Harquahala, implementing riparian management would have similar impacts to riparian habitats but more slowly and less consistently.	season would increase forage abundance and availability to bighorn sheep during the critical lambing season, improving their health and potentially improving lamb fitness and survival. Prohibiting the developing of facilities that would increase livestock use in Browns Canyon and the Inner Basin would eliminate concentrated livestock use from sensitive riparian and upland habitat areas.	no purpose in the absence of livestock grazing would remove many fences and corrals that hinder natural movement of pronghorn, mule deer, and bighorn sheep.	
4.11.10 From Minerals Management	In the monument, no impacts are expected. In Bradshaw-Harquahala, minerals actions would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and impacts to biological resources would be mitigated and avoided to the extent allowable by regulation. Some residual loss of desert tortoise habitat is likely.	Impacts within the monument would be the same as Alternative A. In Bradshaw-Harquahala, closing areas to mineral extraction will protect them from disturbance and will protect the wildlife that depend on those areas. Riparian areas would especially benefit. Opening reconvened lands to mining could degrade	Impacts within the monument would be the same as Alternative A. Impacts of closing areas to mineral extraction would be similar to those described in Alternative B. Opening reconvened lands to mining could degrade desert tortoise habitats and habitats for priority species, but in this alternative, riparian habitats would be	Impacts within the monument would be the same as Alternative A. Impacts of closing areas to mineral would be similar to those described in Alternative B.	Impacts within the monument would be the same as Alternative A. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts to biological resources from management of reconvened lands would be similar to those described for Alternative C.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		riparian and areas and habitats for priority species.	protected.		
4.11.11 From Fire Management	In the monument, use of prescribed fire affects pronghorn habitats and helps control invasive species and restores the natural fire cycle. Full suppression of natural fire starts could interrupt the natural fire cycle required for natural succession, allowing establishment of invasive species, and a buildup of fuel loading. In Bradshaw-Harquahala, full suppression of fires in fire adapted communities would have the same impact. Full suppression of fires in Sonoran desertscrub habitat would decrease mortality to species not adapted to fire.	The impacts of prescribed fire use in fire adapted plant communities would be the same as Alternative A. Treatments would reduce the population size of invasive species in fire-adapted environments, reducing competition between invasive species and native vegetation. Allowing natural starts to burn when conditions are suitable would allow natural fire cycles to return, creating natural mosaics of vegetation age classes and successional stages, improving wildlife habitat and helping to control invasive species. Impacts of full suppression would be the same as described in Alternative A.	Impacts are similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are similar to Alternative B.
4.11.12 From Wild Horse and Burro Management	No impacts are expected in the monument. In Harquahala HA, continued degradation of sensitive habitats and increased competition with wildlife for scarce	Impacts are similar to Alternative A.	Impacts in the monument and the Lake Pleasant area are the similar to Alternative A. In Bradshaw-Harquahala, eliminating the burro population in the	Impacts are similar to Alternative C.	Impacts are similar to Alternative C.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	resources. In Lake Pleasant HMA, Managing for AML will minimize competition with wildlife and livestock.		Harquahala HA will help sensitive habitats recover and reduce competition for forage, water, or other habitat.		
4.11.13 From Management of Transportation and Public Access	In the monument, biological resources would benefit from prohibiting cross-country OHV use, which would prevent the destruction of vegetation and priority wildlife habitats. In Bradshaw-Harquahala, prohibiting cross-country OHV use would provide some protection for sensitive desert tortoise habitat. Use of routes that degrade the value of sensitive riparian and tortoise habitat would likely continue and increase. Allowing cross-country OHV use would harm vegetation and wildlife. Open OHV use could cause the loss of priority habitat and habitat for priority species, including desert tortoise.	In the monument, Designating 140 miles of road as open and closing 38 miles would reduce habitat fragmentation and human disturbance to priority habitats, including riparian and pronghorn habitats. Closed roads would reclaim and restore habitat. In Bradshaw-Harquahala, designating vehicle routes and closing undesignated routes and cross-country travel would benefit biological resources by reducing (1) habitat fragmentation, (2) vegetation destruction, and (3) human disturbance of wildlife.	Impacts in the monument would be similar to those described for Alternative B, except that 129 miles of roads would remain open, providing less habitat fragmentation.	Impacts in the monument would be similar to those described for Alternative B, except that 47 miles of roads would remain open, fragmenting even less habitat than under Alternative C.	Impacts in the monument would be similar to those described for Alternative B, except that 101 miles of roads would fragment less habitat than would Alternative C, but more than would Alternative D.
4.11.14 From Management of Wilderness Characteristics	No impacts are expected.	Allocations to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics would recognize wildlife	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B, except that allocating 107,510 acres to maintain	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative C, except 91,480 acres would be allocated to	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative C, except 96,420 acres would be allocated to

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		populations and habitat as important aspects of naturalness and actively manage them. Allocating 56,040 acres in the Harquahala Management Unit, along with restrictions to roads and vehicles, would reduce disturbances to priority wildlife habitats. Closing lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics to mineral material disposal would reduce ground disturbance and impacts to vegetation and wildlife habitat.	or enhance wilderness characteristics in 3 management units, along with restrictions to roads and vehicles, would further reduce disturbances to priority wildlife habitats.	maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics.	maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics.
4.12 Impacts on Cultural Resources					
4.12.1 From Management of Special Area Designations	Management of WSR eligible segments of the Agua Fria River for non-impairment will also continue to protect cultural resources. Management of designated Wilderness will preserve cultural resources in current condition.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A, except ACEC designation for Perry Mesa and Larry Canyon would be removed. Increased use from Back Country byways could increase vandalism, accelerated erosion at roadside sites, and create a need for more maintenance to preserve historic features off of Constellation Road. Designating Tule Creek would limit surface disturbances that could	Proposed ACEC designations would include restrictions on transportation routes, rights-of-way, livestock grazing, and minerals actions. Such restrictions would help protect cultural resources by limiting public access and ground-disturbing activities. Impacts of Back Country Byways would be the same as Alternative B.	No back country byways are proposed; therefore, no impacts to cultural resources are expected. ACEC designations would have similar impacts to those discussed for Alternative C. Designating more ACECs would further restrict motorized access and other land uses, thereby better protecting cultural resources.	Impacts are similar to Alternative B except ACEC protection would be more like Alternative C, extending to 111,450 acres. Black Mesa would be recommended for recognition in the National Register of Historic Places. Impacts from Bloody Basin and Constellation Mine Roads as Back Country byways would be similar to Alternative

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		damage archaeological features.			B.
4.12.2 From Lands and Realty Management	Land acquisitions would acquire valuable cultural resources and consolidate important areas. This would increase protection of many sites and assure their availability for future scientific or public uses. Installation of utilities within the Black Canyon Corridor could reduce the physical integrity and visual setting of the monument's natural and cultural landscape. Disposal of lands in the Upper Agua Fria River Basin could remove significant cultural resources from Federal protection.	Acquisitions would have the same impacts as Alternative A. Narrowing the Black Canyon Corridor and restrictions on utility development should help maintain integrity of cultural and natural landscapes. Acquiring or disposing of lands in Bradshaw-Harquahala might add or remove significant cultural resources from federal protection. Impacts would be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Widening the Black Canyon Corridor could put more sites at risk of disturbance. Installation of above-ground facilities would detract from the visual setting. Establishing corridors protects sites outside of corridors.	Acquisitions would have the same impacts as Alternative A. Eliminating the Black Canyon utility corridor would reduce the likelihood that cultural resources would be affected by ground disturbance or visual intrusions from future utility development. In Bradshaw-Harquahala, disposal of 600 acres would be unlikely to affect significant cultural resources. Disposal of 49,100 acres could transfer significant cultural resources out of federal protection. Widening the Black Canyon Corridor two miles west would have similar impacts to Alternative B, but would allow additional flexibility.	In the monument, eliminating the Black Canyon utility corridor would have impacts similar Alternative C. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, acquiring state and federal lands would likely increase the level of protection for cultural resources on those lands, much as would Alternative C.	In the monument, Impacts are expected to be similar Alternatives C. In Bradshaw-Harquahala, Impacts are expected to be similar to those described in Alternative B.
4.12.3 From Management of Soil, Air, and Water Resources	Actions to improve soil and vegetation stability will help protect cultural resources from eroding.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A.
4.12.4 From Biological	In the monument,	Actions designed to protect	Limiting vehicle routes	Impacts are similar to	Impacts are similar to

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
Resource Management	modification of existing fences would have no affect, but new fences could disturb cultural resources and degrade the visual setting. Restricting public access to sensitive wildlife habitats would have the spin off benefit of also reducing disturbance and vandalism to cultural sites.	wildlife habitats generally also protect cultural resources. Building wildlife management facilities, such as water developments, could disturb cultural resources. Specific surveys and mitigation would be needed that is specific to any proposal. Travel limitations could restrict access to cultural sites for research or cultural heritage tourism.	in pronghorn corridors might restrict access to cultural resources, protecting them from human intrusion, while limiting opportunities for research, monitoring, and interpretation. In the monument, fence modifications would have impacts similar to those in Alternative A. In Bradshaw-Harquahala, closing or limiting routes in sensitive habitats could restrict access that leads to damage.	Alternative C.	Alternative C.
4.12.5 From Cultural Resource Management	In the monument, restrictions to surface disturbance would help protect cultural resources, but may limit research opportunities. Protective actions would minimize disturbance to cultural resources. Mitigation devised under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act would help ensure protection of National Historic Register eligible sites.	Proactive management helps protect sites from disturbance. Inventories and consultation with tribes will help identify sites and needs for future uses or protective measures that may be important. Implementation of measures could stop, limit, or repair damage from vandalism, erosion and other disturbances, or could improve success in prosecution. Scientific research methods might disturb sites.	Impacts to cultural resources would be similar to those described in Alternative B, except: In the monument, one site would be developed for High public use and eight sites would be allocated to a less intensive Moderate. Impacts of public use development would be similar to Alternative B, but in fewer areas and less intensive for the Moderate developed sites. Overall there is less potential for damage	In the monument, no sites would be developed to High public use and one site would be developed to Moderate public use. This alternative would subject the fewest sites to potential damage, but also develop the fewest sites for public education and enjoyment. In Bradshaw-Harquahala, sites would be allocated to public use in two SCRMAs. This alternative subjects the fewest sites to potential	Impacts to cultural resources would be similar to those described in Alternative B, except: Three sites would be allocated to High public use development and six sites would be allocated to Moderate. Impacts would be very similar to those described under Alternative B, but slightly less. At least 60,570 acres in the monument would be excluded from public use allocations. In these

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		Development of sites for public use could improve understanding, reducing behaviors that put cultural sites at risk. Attracting people to particular sites can cause disturbance. Cultural Heritage Tourism can provide an economic benefit to nearby communities. Development of four sites to High public use within the monument would potentially result in increased disturbance, but would provide the greatest opportunity for interpretation, public education and enjoyment. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, sites would have the largest potential for damage as well as having the greatest opportunity for interpretation, public education and enjoyment.	to cultural resources and reduced opportunity for public education and enjoyment of cultural sites than in Alternative B. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, sites in four cultural priority areas would be developed for public use, reducing the potential for damage, but also reducing the opportunities for public education and enjoyment of cultural sites. Alternative C entails a moderate potential for damage to sites from public use, as well as a moderate potential benefit in public education and the recreational opportunities and economic returns of cultural heritage tourism.	damage from visitation, but also provides the least opportunities for public education, recreation, and economic return from cultural heritage tourism.	remote areas, visitors could encounter and observe archaeological sites under conditions of solitude in pristine settings. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, sites in six cultural priority areas would be developed for public use, reducing the potential for damage to cultural sites from Alternative B, but also reducing the opportunities for public education and enjoyment of cultural sites.
4.12.6 From Paleontological Resource Management	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.
4.12.7 From Recreation Management	In the monument, limiting motorized vehicle use would help protect sites.	Prohibiting geocaches on sites will reduce vandalism and disturbance.	This alternative would allocate a smaller proportion of the monument to the Front	This alternative would create the lowest level of visitation and the least risk of damage to cultural	In the monument, the relatively large area allocated to the Back Country zone, along with

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	In Bradshaw-Harquahala, continued protection and interpretation of the Harquahala Peak Observatory would enhance opportunities for public education and cultural heritage tourism. The potential for damage could continue as public awareness and subsequent casual use increases.	Restricting camping and campfires near sites could reduce damage. For SRPs, limiting group size will help preserve integrity of sites and reduce potential disturbance. Public outreach and education programs could make the public more aware of cultural values and may discourage damaging behaviors. Vehicle route designations can reduce damage. Routes that increase the risk of damaging particular sites can be closed. This alterantive would allow the highest amount of visitation and access by motorized vehicles and would have the greatest potential for site disturbance along with the greatest opportunity for interpretation and education.	Country RMZ than Alternative B with an expected reduction in levels of recreational facilities and visitation. Impacts to archaeological sites are expected to be less extensive in areas allocated to the Back Country zone. Site visitation and educational opportunities from interpretive development of archaeological sites would also decline. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, reductions in travel routes are expected to contribute to lower levels of damage. Opportunities for cultural heritage tourism partnerships would slightly decrease.	resources. Access restrictions would limit the regular monitoring of sites in remote areas, leaving some sites vulnerable to vandalism. Reduced access would reduce opportunities for interpretation and public education, as well as reduced opportunities for scientific research. In Bradshaw-Harquahala, more emphasis on nonmotorized recreation, issuance of fewer SRPs, and more miles of closed routes would reduce the potential of damage. Opportunities for public education, community partnerships, and revenues from cultural heritage tourism would be reduced.	a number of route closures, would contribute to protecting cultural resources, while still allowing for unobtrusive interpretive uses and access for scientific research and monitoring. In Bradshaw-Harquahala, there would be an intermediate level of recreational facilities and route closures. Impacts would likely be similar to Alternative C. Recreational activities would continue to threaten cultural resources but community partnerships would be developed. This would enhance the long-term effectiveness of public education, stewardship, and cultural resource protection by enlisting citizens as partners in these efforts.
4.12.8 From Visual Resource Management	A lack of VRM Class objectives throughout the planning area could lead to a steady degradation of visual landscapes that contribute to prehistoric	Establishing VRM classes through RMP decisions, along with actions that minimize or mitigate visual intrusions, would protect the integrity of cultural	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	and historic sites.	resources.			
4.12.9 From Rangeland Management	Livestock grazing can cause physical damage to sites from rubbing or walking on them. Sites could be damaged by soil erosion resulting from the loss of stabilizing vegetation or the trampling of streambanks. Damage is expected to be greatest at sites where livestock tend to concentrate. Installing and maintaining livestock management facilities could damage the physical or visual integrity of cultural sites. Implementing the Land Health Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health will reduce soil erosion impacts to cultural sites.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A, except that grazing riparian areas in winter only will reduce impacts. Grazing in the Front Country may result in conflict between livestock and visitors to sites developed for public use. Projects for installing and maintaining livestock management would avoid or mitigate impacts to physical or visual integrity.	In both planning areas reductions in upland grazing and the removal of livestock from riparian habitats would reduce damage to cultural resources in nearby areas. Other impacts are expected to be similar to those discussed for Alternative B.	Removing grazing from public lands would eliminate livestock impacts to cultural resources and enhance primitive experiences for visitors.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.
4.12.10 From Minerals Management	Surface disturbance from mining can disturb or destroy cultural sites. Two active mining claims occur within the monument that may continue to be mined for casual use. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, archeological	In the monument, impacts are expected to be similar Alternative A. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts are expected to be similar to those described in Alternative A, except more areas would be closed to, or contain restrictions to	In the monument, impacts are expected to be similar Alternative A. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts are expected to be similar to those described in Alternative B, except more areas would be closed to, or contain	In the monument, impacts are expected to be similar Alternative A. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts are expected to be similar to those described in Alternative C, except even more areas would be closed to, or contain	In the monument, impacts are expected to be similar Alternative A. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts are expected to be similar to those described in Alternative B, except mining closures in Tule Creek ACEC and in

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	surveys are conducted to evaluate if cultural resources might be affected by proposed mining. However, casual use mining does not require a mining plan and impacts to cultural resources may occur.	mining, increasing protection of cultural resources.	restrictions to mining, increasing protection of cultural resources.	restrictions to mining, further increasing protection of cultural resources.	riparian areas within the reconveyed lands would be closed to mineral materials disposal, protecting cultural sites in these areas.
4.12.11 From Fire Management	Fires (wild or prescribed) can damage cultural sites, especially those with flammable components. Fires could temporarily affect visual settings. Methods to fight fire or prepare a site for prescribed burning can disturb cultural sites and cause surface disturbances. Prescribed fire planning includes input from an archeologist to avoid or minimize potential damage. Wildfires that may threaten cultural sites have archeologist input on tactics to minimize the potential for resource damage.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A, except archeological surveys would help locate sensitive resources that may require special attention. MIST would be used to reduce potential damage.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.
4.12.12 From Wild Horse and Burro Management	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.
4.12.13 From Management of Transportation and Public Access	Continued restrictions that limit the use of motorized vehicles to designated routes in the monument would help protect cultural resources. Continued use of existing	Selected routes that lead directly to sites that have been damaged or are threatened by vandalism would be closed. Limiting vehicle traffic on	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B, except Alternative C would allocate fewer transportation routes. More limited public access would be expected	Alternative D would close the largest number of transportation routes in both planning areas. In the monument, only limited motorized use would be allowed in the	Impacts from transportation and public access would be similar to those described under Alternative C for The monument. The number of route closures would

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	roads leading to large archaeological sites might increase the potential for vandalism and damage.	fragile sites would help protect the surface and could deter illegal digging and collecting activities. Alternative B would allow for a more extensive network of transportation routes, which could increase the potential for damage. A more extensive network would facilitate access to a larger number of sites, increasing vulnerability to vandalism and theft. Conversely, increased access would also allow for more interpretation, which could enhance understanding and stewardship of cultural resources.	to reduce the impacts to archaeological sites from vehicle and visitor traffic in both planning areas.	extensive Back Country RMZ. While this would reduce the levels of damage, fewer areas would be available for site visitation and cultural heritage tourism projects. Restricted access would also limit the regular monitoring of archaeological sites in remote areas. Restrictions on access for permitted scientific studies would limit the scientific use of sites and the gathering of information useful for research and resource management.	contribute to protecting cultural resources, while still allowing for unobtrusive interpretive uses and access for scientific research and monitoring. In Bradshaw-Harquahala, there would be an intermediate level of route closures. Impacts to cultural resources would likely be similar to those described for Alternative C.
4.12.14 From Management of Wilderness Characteristics	No impacts are expected.	Management of wilderness characteristics would preserve the visual integrity and natural settings of archaeological sites and cultural landscapes.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.
4.13 Impacts on Paleontological Resources					
4.13.1 From Management of Special Area Designations	Impacts expected to be minimal. Where resources are discovered, management for reduced public use would diminish potential impacts.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A except in the Bradshaw-Harquahala, fencing Tule Creek ACEC would prevent damage and special area designations would protect more areas than Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
4.13.2 From Lands and Realty Management	Impacts are expected to be minimal.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.
4.13.3 From Management of Soil, Air, and Water Resources	Management to improve soil conditions in the monument could preserve potential sites. No impacts are expected in the Bradshaw-Harquahala.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.
4.13.4 From Biological Resource Management	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.
4.13.5 From Cultural Resource Management	Actions to protect cultural resources may preserve potential paleontological sites.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.
4.13.6 From Paleontological Resource Management	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.
4.13.7 From Recreation Management	Impacts are expected to be inadvertent and minimal. Damage may occur from concentrated recreation use.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A, except reduction of routes may help preserve potential sites.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B, but more routes would be closed and more area allocated to Back Country RMZ.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative C, except more routes would be closed and more area allocated to Back Country RMZ.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B, except more routes would be closed and more area allocated to Back Country RMZ.
4.13.8 From Visual Resource Management	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.
4.13.9 From Rangeland Management	Continued grazing may reduce vegetation and increase erosion.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Elimination of grazing could help preserve potential sites.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.
4.13.10 From Minerals Management	No impacts are expected. Should sites be found, potential damage would be mitigated.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.
4.13.11 From Fire Management	Prescribed burning equipment may affect potential sites.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.
4.13.12 From Wild Horse and Burro Management	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
4.13.13 From Management of Transportation and Public Access	No impacts are expected in the monument. Unmanaged vehicle use in Bradshaw-Harquahala could damage potential sites.	OHV use in the monument could damage potential sites. Limiting travel in Bradshaw-Harquahala could help preserve potential sites.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.
4.13.14 From Management of Wilderness Characteristics	No impacts are expected.	Management could help preserve potential sites by maintaining primitive settings.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.
4.14 Impacts on Recreation					
4.14.1 From Management of Special Designations	Existing recreation opportunities in the eligible WSR corridors and wilderness areas would be retained. Potentially growing numbers of nonmotorized users could impair solitude opportunities and contribute to trailing and campsite use impacts along the edge and in the interior of the wilderness areas.	Designating Bloody Basin Road as a back country byway could increase traffic and interaction among visitors. Primitive recreational experiences in the eligible WSR corridor could be diminished. The interpretive elements of the byway would increase visitor awareness, appreciation, and enjoyment. Designating a back country byway along Constellation Mine Road would have impacts similar to Bloody Basin Road. Conflicts between byway users and large OHV groups could diminish the scenic drive experience. Designating Tule Creek	Impacts of Back Country Byways would be the same as in Alternative B. ACEC designation would have little to no impacts within the monument. Designating Tule Creek ACEC would have impacts similar to those under Alternative B. Designating ACECs in the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area would improve opportunities for primitive recreation experiences. Route closures in ACECs would lessen opportunities for	No Back Country Byways are proposed, so there would be no impacts. Designating ACECs would have impacts similar to those described for Alternative C. Route closures would reduce the connectivity of the route network more than under Alternative C and could disrupt cross-country touring routes. Motorized recreationists would be displaced and would potentially travel to other areas and routes. Impacts to wilderness areas due to group size and permit restrictions	Impacts of Back Country Byways would be similar to Alternative B, except inclusion of Buckhorn Road in the Constellation Mine Road Byway would enhance opportunities for loop and longer touring trips. Designating Tule Creek would have similar impacts as in Alternative B. Designating Black Butte and Harquahala Mountains ONAs would assure opportunities for primitive recreation. Impacts of closing routes in the ACECs would be less than under

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		ACEC would reduce opportunities for vehicular recreation. Eliminating grazing would retain a more natural setting and reduce conflicts with livestock. Interpretive elements would increase appreciation of the natural and cultural resources. In wilderness areas, establishing criteria to manage larger group activities will protect wilderness values.	motorized activities Impacts to wilderness areas due to group activities and permit restrictions would be the same as in Alternative B.	would be the same as in Alternative B.	Alternatives C and D, but more than Alternative B. Cross-country touring routes could be disrupted. Opportunities nonmotorized recreation would be maintained in designated wilderness areas. Impacts to wilderness areas due to group activities would be the same as in Alternative B.
4.14.2 From Lands and Realty Management	Disposal of lands would reduce or eliminate recreation opportunities in those areas. OHV use in Skull Valley and Table Mesa would relocate elsewhere. In the Upper Agua Fria River Basin, some recreation connectivity between local communities and the Prescott National Forest would be lost. Corridors are not expected to impact recreation until future projects are proposed. Impacts of utility proposals would be analyzed at the time of application.	Acquiring nonfederal lands that enhance monument's values would improve recreation opportunities by improving access. Narrowing the utility corridor in the monument would reduce the area affected if a future utility project were proposed. Lands in the Table Mesa area would be retained and recreation on those lands could continue. Acquiring lands could enhance opportunities for recreation by increasing connectivity of public	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A.	In the monument, impacts would be similar to Alternative C. No lands would be disposed, and no impacts are expected. Impacts from corridors would be similar to Alternative A.	In the monument, impacts would be similar to Alternative B. No impacts are expected to result from disposing of lands because parcels are small, isolated, or generally an urban area. Because recreation on these parcels is generally minimal, relocating the activities to other BLM lands is not expected to have great impacts. Impacts from other lands actions would be similar to Alternative B.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		lands.			
4.14.3 From Management of Soil, Air, and Water Resources	In the monument, maintaining water quality would enhance wildlife viewing opportunities and water related recreation. Managing air quality could result in restrictions to recreation activities that have the potential to exceed standards. Any recreation related facilities would need to be designed to address emissions.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A.
4.14.4 From Biological Resource Management	In the monument, fence modifications and development of additional wildlife waters could enhance wildlife viewing opportunities. Protection of sensitive habitat could reduce motorized recreation opportunities, but improved habitat could improve wildlife viewing opportunities. Development of wildlife waters and protection of big horn sheep habitat would improve hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities. Motor vehicle restrictions	Impacts in the monument would be the same as Alternative A. Designation of Harquahala Mountains Wildlife Habitat Area (WHA) would Protect sensitive wildlife habitat through route closures would diminish opportunities for motorized recreation. Management for desert tortoise could limit development of new motorized vehicle routes. Seasonal limitations on motorized special events the number of events that could occur in some places and could limit future expansion of those events.	Limitation of routes in pronghorn movement corridors could reduce connectivity of motorized routes within the monument. Prohibiting recreational sites in pronghorn corridors could enhance the recreation experience of some users. Modifying fences to allow wildlife to move more freely could enhance viewing opportunities. Closing or limiting vehicle routes in the designated WHA and wildlife corridor could affect the connectivity of	Impacts from route limitations and development of sites for recreation in pronghorn corridors would be similar to Alternative C. Removal of all fences would maintain route connectivity and enhance the natural appearance of the landscape. Wildlife viewing might be enhanced. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts from wildlife management would be the same as those discussed in Alternative B.	Designation of specified pronghorn corridors in the monument would have the same impacts as Alternative C. Prohibiting the development of recreational sites would have the same impacts as Alternative C. Prohibiting new fences in specified WHA would help maintain the current connectivity of the route network. Closing or limiting vehicle routes in the designated areas would have the same impacts as

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	in desert tortoise, Arizona night lizard, and Sonoran mountain king snake habitats could reduce motorized recreation opportunities.	Ensuring connectivity of wildlife habitats could reduce motorized recreation by closing routes that cross sensitive areas or movement corridors. Wildlife viewing might be enhanced.	the route network and diminish recreational opportunities. Impacts from desert tortoise restrictions would be the same as those identified in Alternative B.	Management of desert tortoise wildlife corridors could limit recreation activities. Other impacts from desert tortoise restrictions would be the same as Alternative B.	Alternative C. Impacts from desert tortoise restrictions would be the same as those identified in Alternative B.
4.14.5 From Cultural Resource Management	More permits could lead to allocation and protection problems if larger numbers of tours and activities visit the same sites. Allocation to scientific use or preservation would limit certain sites for commercial or general recreation use.	Potential route closures could reduce motorized recreation opportunities. Conflicts among users could reduce, and the opportunities to experience cultural resources in a natural setting would be enhanced. Developing interpretive programs would lead to a better appreciation of the sites selected to be open to the public. Stipulations on SRPs would reduce damage caused by visitation from large groups. Improving routes and trails could open sites to a wider variety of users, but could limit access for some users. Educational programs and interpretive signs would raise visitor awareness and	In the monument, impacts would be similar to Alternative B, except that one site would be allocated to High public use and eight sites would be allocated to Moderate public use. In Bradshaw-Harquahala four areas would be allocated for public use. Impacts would be similar to Alternative B, although this would not provide the educational and interpretive opportunities provided by Alternative B. Closing routes that lead to archeological sites would affect the ability of motorized users to access those areas and could lead to fragmentation of the route network.	In the monument, no sites would be developed to High public use and one would be developed to Moderate use. Education and awareness afforded by developed sites would be least under this alternative. Self-discovery opportunities would be greatest. User conflicts could increase. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts would be similar as described for Alternative B, except sites in two cultural priority areas would be developed for public use. Educational and interpreted recreational opportunities would be less than in Alternative C. Opportunities for self-discovery would	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B, except: closing of routes as a protective measure would affect recreational activities and visitor awareness and education programs would increase. In the monument, impacts would be similar to Alternative B except that two sites would be developed for High public use and six sites for Moderate public use. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area developing sites for public use in each cultural priority area would increase awareness and recreational opportunities for experiencing cultural resources.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		sensitivity. Developing five sites for High public use and four sites for Moderate public use in the monument would increase access and education programs on 16,000 acres. Development of public use sites in eight cultural priority areas would increase awareness and opportunities within Bradshaw-Harquahala.	Restricting SRPs to educational tours could reduce recreational and educational opportunities for casual users but could lead to better protection and stewardship of sites for long-term preservation.	increase, but potential conflicts between users might increase also.	
4.14.6 From Paleontological Resource Management	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.
4.14.7 From Recreation Management	Increasing recreation could diminish the experience of some users and alter the setting for many activities. A lack of proactive, activity based recreation management could result in inappropriate use in sensitive areas, overcrowding and user conflicts. Dispersed camping would be expected to proliferate. Conflicts between users and resource disturbance are	Managing the monument's Back Country RMZ for more primitive recreational opportunities would benefit visitors seeking non-motorized activities. Managing the Front Country RMZ would concentrate more intensive uses. In the monument, restrictions on dispersed camping might slightly reduce impacts. The two developed	In the monument, impacts would be similar to those described for Alternative B, except: Front Country allocation would be 42,410 acres and Back Country would encompass 28,420 acres. Camping in Front Country would be allowed only at designated dispersed camp sites. Impacts of developed campground would be similar as described in Alternative	In the monument, impacts would be similar to those described for Alternative C, except: The Front Country zone would be reduced to 1,530 acres and the Back Country zone would be 68,380 acres. Impacts of dispersed camping would be similar to Alternative C, except it would be restricted to designated sites to minimize impacts.	In the monument, dispersed camping would have the same impacts as Alternative B. Impacts from vehicles of dispersed camping are expected to be similar to Alternative D. Recreational target shooting would have the same impacts as Alternative D. Nonmotorized trail connections would have the same impact as in Alternative B.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	expected to escalate. Closures in some OHV routes or activity areas could limit recreation, but resources would be protected. In Bradshaw Harquahala, cross-country could disrupt other recreational settings. The settings would shift over time to more motorized settings. Increased demand for large recreation events requiring SRPs would continue. With no limits on the number of motorized competitive races the number of permits could increase.	campgrounds would increase vehicle based camping opportunities. Some popular shooting areas would be closed for safety reasons. Shooters would be displaced to other locations. Developing connecting trails for nonmotorized activities would enhance recreation opportunities and reduce conflicts. Competitive OHV events would be reduced to 16 annual events. The North Black Canyon Trail SRMA would enhance opportunities for nonmotorized trails, primarily equestrian recreation. On the monument, 35 miles of route would be closed to reduce resource conflicts and 5 miles of new route construction would be built to improve route connectivity and looping opportunities. Cross-country travel would be prohibited for game	B, but in only one place. Campfires would be allowed at dispersed campsites with some limitations. Vehicles would be allowed to pull off no more than 15 feet for day use or dispersed camping, reducing disturbance, but potentially hindering camper accommodations. Impacts of recreational target shooting would be similar to Alternative B, except the Front Country zone would be closed to that activity. Management actions in the Bradshaw-Harquahala would reduce impacts on natural and cultural resources, resolve conflicts among recreation users, maintain recreation opportunities and settings, increase public safety and attempt to maintain dispersed high quality recreation opportunities. Providing staging and	Vehicles would be allowed to pull off routes 15 feet to park for day use, but designated routes would further reduce disturbance of vehicle pull offs. Campfires would be allowed at dispersed sites, but wood for campfires must be brought in from outside the monument. Denying use of local material for campfires would reduce disturbance of woody species. Closure of the monument to recreational target shooting would displace all non-hunting shooters to locations outside the monument. 56,240 acres of SRMAs and RMZs would be allocated for more intensive recreation management. The overall area available for intensive motorized use would be smaller than all other alternatives. Many users	Once completed, the Black Canyon Trail would become a trail of regional significance for mountain bikers, equestrians, and hikers. Management actions applied to the entire Bradshaw-Harquahala would be the same as in Alternative C. 384,510 acres would be allocated to SRMAs and RMZs in this alternative. Availability of public lands for motorized races would be decrease and only 8 races would be allowed annually. The allocation of Yarnell SRMA would preserve hand gliding takeoff and landing areas for long term use, limiting potential safety accidents. With increased long term access and to the North Black Canyon Trail RMZ, nonmotorized recreation experiences would be enhanced.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		retrieval, potentially diminishing hunting opportunities. Route closures would diminish opportunities for traditional users. Area closures could disconnect multiple routes in the network. Protecting biological and cultural resources through the closures would preserve the natural setting. Management of 149,760 acres of BLM land in SRMAs for OHV and intensive recreation would ensure that recreation opportunities would be maintained while reducing conflicts with other users. Development of facilities would enhance the recreation experience for many users. Increasing SRP permits to 12 on the monument could increase opportunities for structured tour groups, while potentially increasing conflicts between commercial tours and casual users at developed sites. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts	trail areas for multiple recreation activities and creating new trails would enhance recreation experiences by increasing opportunities and reducing user conflict. Alternative C would significantly reduce the overall availability of public lands for motorized competitive races. In the designated areas, the number of races would be limit to 6 per year. The impacts of OHV management and route closures in ACECs and lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics would be Similar to Alternative B, except that more area would be designated as ACECs and WHAs resulting in increased limitations on areas available for motorized recreation. In the monument, impacts of SRPs would be similar to those described for Alternative B, except the maximum number to be authorized	and activities would be displaced to other areas. Conflicts between casual users and larger group activities would intensify and conflicts between motorized and nonmotorized recreationists could increase. The impacts of OHV management and route closures in ACECs and lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics would be the highest under this alternative. . Prohibiting SRPs in the monument may reduce or eliminate the ability of some users to experience the monument resources. It could also eliminate conflicts between casual visitors and large groups, especially at popular locations. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts regarding the number of SRPs issued would be the same as in the Alternative A. Limiting the number of allowable	OHV management and route closures in ACECs and lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics to achieve recreation settings would somewhat reduce the amount of lands open to vehicle-based and motorized recreation. Most closures would occur in the lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics in the vicinity of Black Butte, and within the Belmont Mountains and in the Harquahala Mountain and Black Butte ONAs. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts are similar to those described in Alternative C except: The number of race events could be increased to 4 per year in the Vulture Mountains RMZ, representing an increase of two for the area. This is expected to meet potential future demand, but some casual users would be further inconvenienced or

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		regarding the number of SRPs issued would be the similar to those described in Alternative A except: the number of motorized competitive races would be limited to 14 per year. Annual limits would be set for each SRMA which would spread the potential number of races throughout the five SRMAs allocated for such use. This would minimize potential user conflicts in those and allow diverse OHV opportunities in these areas. Restricting competitive, commercial, and organized group events to certain VRM and ROS classes could limit the opportunities to find new areas for events. Limiting group events to allocated VRM standards and recreation could limit the total area open to existing events and prevent designating locations for new events.	across the monument would be six. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts from SRP management would be similar to those described in Alternative A, except: a maximum of six motorized competitive races would be authorized per year. In this alternative, races would not be allowed in the Table Mesa SRMA, reducing routes available to that use. Overall, available routes should meet demand, but annual limits for races in each SRMA may result in races being relocated to a less desirable location if the requested location has been allocated. These limits in each SRMA would minimize potential user conflicts in those areas and allow for more diverse OHV opportunities.	races in this alternative to two is less than the current situation of three races per year. No races will be allowed in the Hieroglyphic Mountains SRMA. This could be a severe impact on motorized racing enthusiast because it is moving the only remaining race location further from Phoenix and it limits the racing to one SRMA that has less diverse routes. Racing opportunities would be inevitably lost and the demand will no longer be met.	displaced.
4.14.8 From Visual Resource Management	No impacts are expected.	In the monument, managing 12,700 acres as VRM Class II and 57,900 acres as Class III would enable the Back	In the monument, impacts would be similar to Alternative B, except VRM Class III would be	In the monument, impacts would be similar to Alternative B, except VRM Class III would be	In the monument, impacts would be similar to Alternative B, except VRM Class III would be

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		Country zone to be maintained as natural appearing and the Front Country zone to accommodate recreation related activities and developments. Managing lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics as VRM Class II would help retain appearance of naturalness in the areas and the primitive recreational experience. Improvements would need to be designed to meet VRM standards and may require design modifications to do so.	reduced to 42,410 acres and VRM Class II would increase to 28,490 acres. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts would be similar as described for Alternative B, except 134,920 acres would be allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics and allocated to VRM Class II. Managing Sheep Mountain ONA ACEC as VRM Class I would enhance the visual setting of the area.	reduced to 1,530 acres and VRM Class II would increase to 69,370 acres. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, 226,400 acres of lands would be allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics and 142,700 acres of ONA ACEC would be managed for VRM Class I. Impacts to recreation would be to maintain the natural and open space character of the visual landscaped with minimal visual impacts from proposed developments.	on 12,440 acres of Front Country, VRM Class II on 47,700 acres of Back Country and Passage, and VRM Class I on 23,200 acres allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts would be similar to Alternative B, except 55,480 acres allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics would be managed as VRM Class II and 104,690 acres of ONA ACEC would be managed as VRM Class I.
4.14.9 From Rangeland Management	Increasing recreation use is increasing conflicts between recreation users and livestock grazing. If private landowners close access across their lands, BLM lands will be unavailable for recreation uses resulting in reduced recreation opportunities.	In the monument, limiting grazing in the riparian to winter season would degrade the recreational experience during those months. The primitive recreation experience would be enhanced in the summer months. Livestock control facilities would potentially degrade the visual landscape. Impacts would be similar in the rest of the monument. Improved riparian	In the monument, removal of livestock from riparian areas would eliminate conflicts with cattle and enhance the recreational experience in those areas. Other grazing related impacts would be similar to those described in Alternative B.	The potential for conflicts with livestock would be eliminated. Both motorized and primitive recreation experiences could improve as recreation settings become free of livestock inconveniences. Access to some public lands could be lost if ranchers sell their private property. The number of areas where ranchers have traditionally	Impacts from grazing are expected to be similar to Alternative B.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		conditions from livestock management would enhance settings in riparian areas, as well as improve wildlife viewing opportunities. Less conflict with livestock could occur in the Front Country zone during summer, but the fencing improvements could disrupt the vehicular route network, restrict accessibility for people with disabilities, and diminish the recreation experience for those users. Improved riparian conditions would enhance the recreation setting for hunting, nature study, and wildlife and bird watching. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts would be similar to those described for the monument above. Improved vegetation conditions would improve the recreation setting for nonmotorized users.		permitted public access across private land could decline, making some public land inaccessible in areas notable for interspersed private ranch and BLM lands.	
4.14.10 From Minerals Management	In the monument, no impacts from mining are expected. Increased recreation demand is increasing	In the monument, no impacts from mining are expected. Closing lands allocated to maintain or enhance	In the monument, no impacts from mining are expected. Impacts would be similar to Alternative B, except a	In the monument, no impacts from mining are expected. Impacts would be similar to Alternative B, except a	In the monument, no impacts from mining are expected. Impacts would be the same as in Alternative A

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	conflict between recreation users and mining. Mining in popular areas for recreation will degrade the recreational experience, potentially reduce recreation opportunities. Most impacts would result from developing saleable minerals. Designated wilderness areas and Agua Fria National Monument--an area of 172,510 acres--are closed to mineral material disposal.	wilderness characteristics and ACECs to mineral material disposal would improve recreation opportunities and settings on 96,150 acres. There would be no impacts from leasable minerals management and few impacts from locatable minerals.	total of 325,970 acres would be closed to mineral material disposal. Visual settings would be better maintained because mining projects would be consistent with view management objectives.	total of 469,680 acres would be closed to mineral material disposal. Closures would ensure the retaining of recreation opportunities in undisturbed natural settings over the largest area under any of the alternatives.	with a total of 172,80 acres closed to mineral material disposal. Closures would ensure the retaining of high-quality primitive recreation opportunities in undisturbed natural settings.
4.14.11 From Fire Management	Prescribed and natural fires would displace recreation users from burned areas until recovery and would potentially limit recreation areas. Improved vegetation conditions resulting from burns in adapted environments could improve recreational experiences and wildlife viewing opportunities.	Impacts would be the same as for Alternative A, except that natural fire starts would be allowed to burn in the prescribed burn areas. This practice could increase opportunities for fires to start during each season because only planned, human-set fires are now allowed to burn. More fire starts could increase disruptions to recreation by increasing the instances of area closures.	Impacts would be the same as Alternative B.	Impacts would be the same as Alternative B.	Impacts would be the same as Alternative B.
4.14.12 From Wild Horse and Burro Management	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.
4.14.13 From Management of Transportation and Public Access	OHVs and other mechanized users will only be allowed to use routes and areas compatible with their recreation because	In the monument, 140 miles, of routes would remain open to vehicular travel. The route system would enhance	In the monument, the impact of route closures and openings would have the same impact as Alternative B, except 129	In the monument, 47 miles of routes would remain open to vehicular travel. Opportunities for motorized recreation	In the monument impacts of route closures and openings would be similar to Alternative C, except 88 miles of

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	heavy OHV use has adverse effects on the land. No closures are expected for motorized route-based recreation in the monument. However, cross-country motorized travel is prohibited. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, 2,240 miles of vehicle routes would remain open, and motorized recreation opportunities would not be affected.	opportunities for motorized recreation by creating loop trails, which would allow connected touring, provide for an increase in access, and offer extended recreational opportunities. Closing 38 mils of route could limit opportunities for motorized recreation and displace users elsewhere. Up to 48 miles of route in the Bradshaw-Harquahala would be closed. The closures would affect and displace motorized recreational opportunities for traditional users of those routes. A total of 168 miles of routes would be closed to (1) protect resources, (2) reduce redundancy, and (3) limit routes for administrative use. 14 miles of new routes would be established to mitigate losses from the closures and to achieve better route connectivity. Limiting all mechanized vehicles to inventoried routes would eliminate cross-country OHV travel.	miles of routes would remain open and 50 miles of existing routes would be closed. The impacts on opportunities for recreation in the Bradshaw-Harquahala would be similar to those under Alternative B, except that the model route system for Alternative C would close 382 miles of routes Route closures in special area designations would have the same impact as described in Alternative B. Developing connecting route networks would have the same impacts as Alternative B. Limiting routes in pronghorn corridors in Agua Fria National Monument could reduce the connectivity of the route network and diminish the motorized recreation experience of some users. Closing or limiting	would be limited, and loop trails would not be developed. The route system would close 122 miles of existing routes and could diminish opportunities for motorized recreation and public access in some areas. Opportunities for non-motorized recreation would be enhanced throughout the monument. There would be more opportunity to experience solitude and natural landscape settings. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts from route designations on recreational opportunities would be similar to Alternative B, except that 412 miles of routes in ACECs and lands allocated to enhance wilderness characteristics would be closed. Impacts from route limitations and development of sites for recreation in the pronghorn corridors in	secondary and tertiary roads would be designated as open and 70 miles of route would be closed. Impacts on opportunities for recreation in the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area would be similar to Alternative C except in designated areas 114 miles of routes would be closed and 179 miles of routes would remain open. Route closures in special area designations would have the same impact as Alternative C. Prohibiting the building of new routes in WHA areas and ACECs could affect motorized recreation opportunities by preventing maintenance of route connections when other routes are closed for resource protection. Moreover, new routes could not be built to satisfy the public demand for more interesting, challenging, and long-

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		Restricting all motorized and non-motorized vehicles to existing routes would prevent development of new routes. Enacting specific route, wash, or area closures in designated areas would affect the recreational opportunities of motorized users. Area closures could disconnect multiple routes in the network. Protecting biological and cultural resources through the closures would maintain resources and preserve the natural setting for future recreational opportunities. Developing connecting route networks allow all types of users to enjoy activities consistently, in more areas, and with fewer user conflicts. Managing the North Black Canyon Trail SRMA would enhance the non-motorized recreation experience in the northern portion of the planning area. The closure of routes in sensitive wildlife areas	vehicle routes in the Belmont/Big Horn Mountains WHA area and in the Harquahala/Belmont/Big Horn Wildlife Corridor could affect the connectivity of the route network and diminish the recreational experience and opportunities for motorized users. Fragmented route systems could diminish the recreational experience for some users and possibly lead to an increase in unauthorized cross-country travel to connect routes. Impacts from desert tortoise restrictions would be the same as those identified in Alternative B.	Agua Fria National Monument would be similar to those under Alternative C. Removing all fences and prohibiting new ones in the monument would maintain connectivity in the motorized route system developed for Alternative D. ACEC designations could limit motorized recreation developments and restrict activities, diminishing the recreation experience of some users. Impacts from desert tortoise restrictions would be the same as those identified in Alternative B.	distance route systems and loops. The Black Canyon Trail from the Carefree Highway to north of Highway 69 would become a major trail of regional significance for mountain bikers, equestrians, and hikers. Moreover, the trail would link the communities of the Black Canyon corridor and the north boundary of the Phoenix-Peoria metropolis. Managing the North Black Canyon Trail RMZ would enhance the nonmotorized recreation experience in the northern portion of the planning. Impacts from desert tortoise restrictions would be the same as those identified in Alternative B.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		would diminish motorized recreation opportunities. Opportunities for wildlife viewing could be enhanced. Lessening or limiting development of new routes in areas managed for desert tortoise habitat would limit opportunities for trail-based individual, organized group or special motorized recreation uses.			
4.14.14 From Management of Wilderness Characteristics	In the monument, no impacts are expected. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, opportunities for primitive and nonmotorized types of recreation would decline over the life of the plan due to increasing motorized recreation and land use authorizations. Lands with semi primitive nonmotorized recreation settings and could decline.	In the monument, no impacts are expected. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, 56,040 acres of land would be managed to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics. Designation of these areas would impede the ability of motorized recreational users to access washes, single-track cattle paths, and little-used tertiary routes in these areas. Motorized recreationists would be displaced and forced to travel to nearby areas and routes offering motorized opportunities. More crowded motorized routes would make the increase encounters with	In the monument, no impacts are expected. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts would be the same as Alternative B except that 107,510 acres of land would be managed to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics. This increased number of acres could create more displacement of motorized recreationists than Alternative B. Designation of a larger amount of area to manage for wilderness characteristics would provide non-motorized users more recreational opportunities than	In the monument, no impacts are expected. The impacts of managing lands in the Bradshaw-Harquahala allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics would be similar to those under Alternative B and C, except that the total area of public lands affected would be 91,480 acres. Alternative D would designate some of the lands identified to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics described in Alternatives B and C as ONA ACECs.	In the monument, no impacts are expected. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts would be the same as Alternative B except that 96,420 acres of land would be managed to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics. This increased number of acres could create more displacement of motorized recreationists than Alternative B. Designation of a larger amount of area to manage for wilderness characteristics would provide non-motorized users more recreational opportunities than

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		other motorized users. This would reduce the quality of dispersed recreational experiences for some visitors. Non-motorized users would benefit from the limitation on vehicles in areas designated to manage or enhance wilderness characteristics by being able to recreate in a more natural setting.	Alternative B.		Alternative B but not as much as Alternative C.
4.15 Impacts on Visual Resources					
4.15.1 From Management of Special Designations	Present conditions would be maintained. BLM would evaluate future projects for visual impacts, but would give no guidance to consistency of area values. The two ACECs in the monument would be maintained, and the Agua Fria River would remain eligible for WSR designation. No VRM classes have been assigned. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area, 5 wilderness areas would be managed by VRM Class I standards.	In the monument, WSR eligibility would be maintained. Corridors should maintain the natural views within those corridors. Back Country Byway designation on the Bloody Basin Road would have very low impacts from proposed associated facilities. In the Bradshaw-Harquahaha, retaining the Harquahala Mtn Summit Road would not affect existing scenic quality. The wilderness areas would remain under VRM Class I. Tule Creek ACEC could result in slightly degraded views by requiring fences	In the monument, WSR eligibility would be maintained. The addition of four ACECs requiring fencing to prohibit livestock could slightly degrade the visual resources. Limitation to vehicle routes may result in some route closures that could improve the visual character of the areas. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts would be similar to those described in Alternative B, except: Management of seven ACECs could slightly degrade visual resources,	In the monument, WSR eligibility would be maintained. Designation of the 13,070 acre ACEC along the Agua Fria River would have similar impacts to those described for the ACECs in Alternative C, but over a somewhat larger area. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts would be similar to those described in Alternative B. Designation of the 8 ACECs would be similar to those described in Alternative C, except over a much larger area. Complete closure of the	In the monument, impacts would be the same as Alternative B. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts would be similar to Alternative C, except the proposed ACEC designation would be increased.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		to prohibit livestock. Improved vegetation conditions and closure to mining could steadily improve the visual character of the ACEC.	but could improve visual resources by prohibiting mining, closing some roads, precluding new recreational sites, and prohibiting construction of new range improvements in some areas.	ACECs to motorized travel will potentially improve visual character by allowing existing vehicle routes to slowly disappear. The wilderness areas would remain in VRM class I.	
4.15.2 From Lands and Realty Management	In the monument, land acquisition would be evaluated for visual resource on a project-specific environmental review. New utility proposals could affect the visual character of the landscape. The impacts would be limited to the western end of the monument, where there are already visual disturbances from previous utility projects. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, no impacts are expected from land acquisition. Acquisitions would be evaluated for visual resources under a project-specific environmental review. Future utility, mining, or development projects would no longer have to	In both planning areas, visual resources would benefit because newly acquired parcels would be inventoried and managed according to the VRM system. Land disposal could impair visual resources by eliminating BLM's management control over the disposed parcels. Adding designated utility corridors could affect visual resources by increasing the potential installation of utility structures. Narrowing the corridor in the monument could affect visual resources by confining new utilities to areas already visually affected by existing structures. An expansion of the corridor could impact the Bumble Bee area and	Impacts would be similar to those described for Alternative B, except: Eliminating the existing utility corridor in the monument would eliminate potential impacts of future utilities. A corresponding expansion of the corridor two miles west could extend impacts of utility development even further into the Bumble Bee area and into the line of sight from the Sunset Point Scenic Overlook, but may also give enough room within the corridor to site any utility so its impact was either screened from view or minimized. In the Bradshaw-	Impacts to visual resources from land and realty management actions would be similar to those in Alternative B, except: Impacts in monument from utility corridors would be similar to those under Alternative C. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, no acreage has been found to be suitable for disposal. BLM would retain management of all public lands, and projects would be subject to design review to ensure compliance and consistency with VRM class objectives.	Impacts to visual resources from land and realty management actions would be similar to those discussed for Alternative B, except: Impacts from utility corridors would be similar to Alternative B for the monument and to a combination of B and C for lands west of Interstate 17. Expanding the Black Canyon Utility Corridor will aloe for future development to meet demand in the Phoenix area, while allowing flexibility to adjust to facilities to minimize visual impacts as views from scenic overlooks along I-17.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	conform with existing VRM class standards. Aesthetically incompatible projects could be introduced onto the public lands. These projects and authorizations could degrade recreation settings, view sheds, and open space qualities of public lands.	sites visible from Sunset Point Scenic Overlook. Future telecommunication infrastructure projects would undergo environmental review that would analyze visual resources. Requiring projects to be designed to keep with the VRM class in which they occur would minimize impacts. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, 58,400 acres have been determined to be suitable for disposal. All highway system routes and proposed corridors southwest of the Wickenburg Bypass corridor, would be inconsistent with VRM objectives.	Harquahala, impacts of Disposal of 49,100 acres would be similar to those described for Alternative A. Impacts to visual resources from transportation corridors would be similar to those described for Alternative B.		
4.15.3 From Management of Soil, Air, and Water Resources	Preventing or reducing impacts on air quality by developing mitigation during project planning could benefit visual resources by maintaining the local clarity of the visual landscape.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A.
4.15.4 From Biological Resource Management	Negligible impacts are expected.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A, except: Designing wildlife management projects to	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B, except the area of WHAs in the monument would increases to 39,300 acres	Impacts would be similar to those described for Alternative C, except much of the management of important biological	Impacts would be similar to those described for Alternative C.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		comply with VRM Classes I and II in some places would reduce visual impacts from those projects to a minimum. Potential closure of vehicle routes within 64,220 acres of Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHAs) could improve visual landscapes where closures occur.	in the monument and 157,180 acres in the Bradshaw-Harquahala. WHAs could enhance the visual landscape by removing existing disturbances.	areas would be in ACECs, and an additional 24,290 acres of WHA would be added.	
4.15.5 From Cultural Resource Management	No impacts are expected.	Implementing physical and administrative protection measures to stop, limit, or repair damage and vandalism to sites could affect visual resources. Building fences or other barriers could impair visual resources. Closing routes and restricting grazing could increase vegetation cover, creating a more natural-appearing landscape. Authorizing commercial and other group tours could degrade visual resources because of disturbance. In the monument, 4,438 acres would be allocated to High public use area for cultural resources. High public use could disturb visual resources by adding visitor facilities, improving	In the monument, 11,600 acres would be allocated to High public use and would experience some of the same impacts as the areas designated for High public use in Alternative B. Two sites could experience impacts similar to those described under the Cultural Resources section of Management Common to Both Planning Areas: Fort Silver and the Pueblo la Plata complex. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, the allocation of four SCRMAs could result in actions affecting visual resources. Impacts would be the same as those described for SCRMAs under	Impacts to visual resources from cultural resources would be similar to those discussed in the Visual Resources section of Management Common to Both Planning Areas. In the monument, no sites would be allocated to High public use. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, the allocation of two SCRMAs could result in the actions affecting visual resources. Impacts would be the same as described for Alternative B.	Impacts in Agua Fria National Monument would be would be similar to those in Alternative C. Impacts in the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area would be similar to those in Alternative B.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		routes and signs, and developing a motorized or nonmotorized loop trail system. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, development of public use sites would have similar impacts to those described in the monument. In this alternative, public use sites would be developed in all eight SCRMAs.	Alternative B.		
4.15.6 From Paleontological Resource Management	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.
4.15.7 From Recreation Management	In the monument, visual resources could be affected by installing signs at monument boundaries, in addition to disturbances and potential damage caused by target shooting. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, installing more signs could degrade visual resources. Large public land areas west of Highway 93 remaining open to cross-country and OHV activity would continue to affect visual resources. As visitation increases over the life of the plan, visual	In the monument, in the Front Country zone (57,900 acres), maintaining or enhancing both nonmotorized and motorized visitor travel could affect visual resources by introducing human facilities into the view shed, developing cultural sites, and building visitor amenities. In the Back Country zone (12,700 acres) no impacts are expected. The Passage RMZ (300 acres) would contain the major vehicle routes or traverse across the Back	Impacts would be similar to those discussed for Alternative B, except Front Country allocated to Class III would be decreased to 42,410 acres, and VRM Class II in Back Country increased to 28,420 acres, and Passage would be decreased to 70 acres. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area, impacts would be similar to Alternative B, except Alternative C would increase the allocation of nine SRMAs to 164,780 acres, and increase areas	Impacts to visual resources from recreation management would be similar to those under Alternative B. In the monument, Front Country would be decreased to 1,530 acres, Back Country would be increased to 68,380 acres, and Passage would be increased to 990 acres. Impacts to visual resources in the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area would be similar to Alternative B, except BLM would decrease the allocation of	Impacts to visual resources from recreation management would be similar to those under Alternative B. In the monument, Front Country would be decreased to 12,440 acres, Back Country would be increased to 57,200 acres, and Passage would increase to 1300 acres. Impacts in the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area would be similar to Alternative B, except BLM would allocate seven SRMAs,

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	qualities could be further degraded by landscape damage and increasing levels of dust.	Country RMZ. VRM objectives would allow maintaining the current visual character while providing limited management activities. Some visitor related development could occur, but it would not create significant impacts. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, all lands in MUs would be allocated as ERMAs, unless superseded for SRMAs or RMZs. Visual resources could be affected by this allocation by the establishment of recreational and visitor facilities. Management prescriptions for 9 SRMAs could affect visual resources by the development of staging/ camping areas and visitor facilities. Motorized events in lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics within the Harquahala Mountains could alter the visual landscape by reducing local visual clarity. Impacts, however, would be minimized by the restrictive	allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics to four, totaling 98,430 acres.	SRMAs to seven, totaling 56,240 acres. Areas allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics would increase to six, but decrease in total acreage to 91,480.	increasing the acreage to 384,510, and six areas allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics, increasing the acreage to 109,910.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		timeframe for holding events.			
4.15.8 From Visual Resource Management	Current conditions would be maintained, and since no VRM management classes were established through prior planning, the visual landscape is expected to gradually decline. A lack of clear management, direction can also be accounted for the decline of visual aesthetics in both planning areas.	In the monument, 57,900 acres would be allocated to VRM Class III, and 13,000 allocated to VRM Class II. This combination of VRM Classes allows protection of visual landscapes while meeting the objectives of managing recreation demands. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, division of VRM allocation into 4 classes allows management of resources consistent with the objective of Alternative B, while protecting the scenic and open space values in sensitive areas. Proposed projects over the life of the plan are expected to create visual intrusions in places where they do not already exist. However, the changes are expected to be minimal.	In the monument, visual resource impacts would be the same as in Alternative B, except: 42,410 acres of Front Country would be managed as VRM class III and 28,480 acres of Back Country and Passage zones would be managed as VRM Class II. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, there will be 4 designated VRM classes. Impacts would be similar to those in Alternative B, except that more land would be included in VRM Class II. This increase is expected to preserve the existing open space in a larger areas for the life of the plan.	In the monument, the visual resource impacts would be the same as those in Alternative B, except: 1,530 acres of Front Country would be managed as VRM Class II and 69, 370 acre of Back Country and Passage zone would be managed as VRM class II. In Bradshaw-Harquahala,. Impacts would be similar to those from Alternative C, except that the increase of land in VRM class I would place a higher standard for managing intrusions across a larger landscape. Preserving broad natural-appearing landscapes is a high priority. The extent of the landscape preserved would be greater than under Alternative C.	In the monument, visual resource impact would be similar to those in Alternative D, except that 12,440 acres of Front Country would be managed as VRM Class III, 35,300 acres of Back Country and Passage zone would be managed as VRM Class II, and 23,160 acres would be allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics and would be managed under VRM class I. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, VRM classes would be allocated into 4 classes. The impacts would be similar to those in Alternative D.
4.15.9 From Rangeland Management	Construction of more livestock control facilities could contribute to a steady decline in visual quality across the planning area.	Impacts would be similar to those described in Alternative A, except: Construction of facilities to control livestock access to riparian areas could increase the number of	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B, except the improvements to riparian vegetation could be faster.	Removing livestock would, reduce the visual intrusion of fences, corals, and other developments. Improved vegetation conditions will also improve visual	Visual impacts would be the same as described in Alternative B.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		livestock control facilities planned, but conformance of project design with established VRM classes will minimize the visual intrusion of projects.		landscapes. Increases in livestock related developments in adjacent nonfederal lands, or conversion to nonagricultural uses could greatly degrade visual landscapes. Improved plant health could improve visual landscapes in higher desert and grassland communities.	
4.15.10 From Minerals Management	In the monument, only lands encumbered by mining claims are open to mining. No activity beyond casual use would be allowed without determinations of valid existing rights. Therefore, mineral development on existing claims would have minimal impacts on visual resource. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, most of the planning area would remain open to mineral location and development. Mining would alter the existing visual landscape by adding mining scars, facilities for operations, and routes. Localized degradation of air quality and visual clarity could result from mine	In the monument, impacts are the same as in Alternative A. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, minerals management could affect visual resources over most of the planning area. Mining impacts would be minimized by compliance with VRM Class allocations. Alternative B would allow more visual intrusion into the landscape than would Alternatives C, D, or E. Alternative B would protect the visual landscape more than would Alternative A. In addition, mining would be prohibited from some lands as follows: ▪ 268,260 acres would be	In the monument, impacts are the same as in Alternative B, except that visual impacts from the different types of mining would be eliminated on the following lands (including Wilderness acres): ▪ 325,970 acres would be closed to development of saleable minerals ▪ 188,450 acres would be closed to development of locatable minerals 188,190 acres would be closed to development of leasable minerals	Impacts to visual resource management from minerals management would be similar to those under Alternative B, except visual impacts from the different types of mining would be eliminated on the following lands (including Wilderness acres): ▪ 469,680 acres would be closed to development of saleable minerals ▪ 446,440 acres would be closed to development of locatable minerals ▪ 453,550 acres would be closed to development of leasable minerals	Impacts to VRM from minerals management would be similar to those under Alternative B, except visual impacts from the different types of mining would be eliminated on the following lands (including Wilderness acres): ▪ 172,780 acres would be closed to development of saleable minerals ▪ 171,940 acres would be closed to development of locatable minerals ▪ 171,680 acres would be closed to development of leasable minerals

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	emissions and increased dust emissions. The five designated Wilderness areas (96,820 acres) would continue to be closed to any mineral development. Visual impacts from the different types of mining would be eliminated on the following lands (including Wilderness acres): ▪ 172,510 acres would be closed to development of saleable minerals ▪ 171,680 acres would be closed to development of locatable minerals ▪ 171,680 acres would be closed to development of leasable minerals	closed to development of saleable minerals ▪ 171,680 acres would be closed to development of locatable minerals ▪ 171,680 acres would be closed to development of leasable mineral			
4.15.11 From Fire Management	Prescribed burning would reduce visual quality in the short term but improve vegetation health and visual quality in the long term. Wildfires would have a similar affect, but in non fire adapted communities visual impacts could last for decades.	Impacts would be the same as for Alternative A except some natural start fires may be allowed to burn in the national monument, increasing slightly the potential visual impacts.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B.
4.15.12 From Wild Horse and Burro Management	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	Removal of burros from the Harquahala Herd Area could improve vegetation cover.	Impacts are similar to Alternative C.	Impacts are similar to Alternative C.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
			Scenery would change because natural conditions would be restored.		
4.15.13 From Management of Transportation and Public Access	In the monument, no significant impacts are expected. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, lands would remain undesignated per VRM Classes. New roads and routes authorized or pioneered could eventually create visual disturbances in the planning area. Roads up hillsides, through riparian zones, and along-term soil and vegetation damage would impact visual resources over both the short and long-term.	In the monument, no significant impacts are expected. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, a wide range of impacts are anticipated from management of travel, transportation and public access. Small transportation projects would be mitigated and consistent to the appropriate VRM classes. Impacts would be most significant on lands proposed for consideration as major highway corridors.	Impacts are similar to Alternative B.	In the monument, no significant impacts are expected. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, less adverse impacts are anticipated than other alternatives. VRM allocations will maintain the natural appearance of the monument landscapes while meeting other resource management objectives. Impacts would be greatly reduced than those considered under Alternatives B and C. As described in Alternative B, there could be significant visual impacts from major county, state and federal highway projects. Overall, allocated VRM classes would maintain or enhance the appearance of public lands.	In the monument, no significant impacts are expected. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts would be similar to those under Alternative B and projects would be installed mostly consistent with VRM objectives.
4.15.14 From Management of Wilderness	No areas are under consideration for management of wilderness characteristics. Therefore,	Visual and scenic resource conditions would be maintained and protected within landscapes allocated	Impacts are similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are similar to Alternative B.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
Characteristics	there are no impacts on visual resources.	to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics. Light pollution could be less and dark skies more effectively maintained.			
4.16 Impacts on Rangeland Management					
4.16.1 From Management of Special Designations	Exclusion of grazing in Larry Canyon ACEC has a negligible effect on rangeland management. Designation of the WSR corridors would institute a restriction for livestock use during the winter season on the riparian segments of the corridor. Vegetation health and density would improve, and with it forage conditions in the riparian areas would improve. During the period the riparian is closed, the altered livestock distribution could cause increased disturbance in areas livestock congregate. There is also slight potential of vehicle-livestock impacts along the Harquahala Summit Scenic Road Back Country Byway.	Designation of the Bloody Basin Road and Constellation Mine Road as back country byways would increase traffic and recreation use in the area, therefore increasing animal-vehicle collisions. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, Tue Creek ACEC would exclude grazing from fenced areas. This would improve health of riparian vegetation and negligibly decrease AUMs for the grazing allotment.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B, except: Exclusion of livestock from 810 acres of riparian ACEC in the monument would have a negligible affect on livestock grazing. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, reduced surface disturbance from non-grazing activities restricted by ACEC designation on 87,310 acres would improve forage conditions and reduce potential for vehicle-animal collisions. Designating the Constellation Mine Road as a back country byway would have the same impacts as in Alternative B.	Management of the 13,070 acres of ACEC in the monument would help improve range conditions by reducing vehicle traffic, damage to riparian vegetation, disturbance by recreational users, wildlife stress, and potential vectoring of noxious and invasive species. Designation of 8 ACEC in the Bradshaw-Harquahala would have similar impacts to those described in Alternative C, but over a larger area (314,580 acres).	In the national monument, there are no ACEC proposals under this alternative. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts from ACECs would be similar to Alternative C, except the ACEC acreage in would cover 111,450 acres.
4.16.2 From Lands and Realty Management	In the monument, no impacts are expected. In the Bradshaw-	In the monument, narrowing the utility corridor to existing rights-of-way would restrict	Eliminating the Black Canyon corridor would eliminate the development of short	Impacts to rangeland vegetation would be similar to that described in Alternative C, except	In the monument, narrowing of the Black Canyon utility corridor would have similar

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	Harquahala, maintenance or construction of utilities in corridors may slightly disturb vegetation and disrupt grazing operations temporarily. Acquiring privately owned and state-held lands would create large blocks of federally managed lands. These blocks could consolidate management, and increase AUM. Land disposal of 54,370 acres would reduce available grazing lands and/or livestock developments located on those lands. Depending on the size of parcels, AUMs may be reduced or whole allotments may be closed.	impacts to vegetation from new utility. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, lands and realty related impacts would be similar to those described for Alternative A, except: Lands available for disposal would be 58,400 acres. Authorized AUMs might need to be adjusted. The total acreage from the sale, conveyance, or R&PP would represent a potential loss of less than 6% of the land available for livestock grazing in Bradshaw-Harquahala.	term vegetation disturbances, stress to livestock and wildlife, animal-vehicle collisions, and vectoring weeds. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts would be similar to Alternative A. Impacts of the land tenure adjustment of 49,100 acres of BLM-managed federal lands would be similar to those described for Alternative B. The total acreage from these actions would represent a potential loss of five percent of the lands available for livestock grazing.	impacts to grazing and livestock would end with the cessation of grazing.	impacts to those described in Alternative B. Any future land acquisition could increase forage. Any increase in AUMs would be negligible and grazing authorization would increase. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts would be similar to those described for Alternative C, except that 38,755 acres would be offered for disposal (4% of which is loss for livestock. grazing).
4.16.3 From Management of Soil, Air, and Water Resources	Reducing or eliminating livestock grazing would accelerate the rate of improvement. These actions could result in reduced authorized livestock numbers for grazing permits. Promoting increased vegetation cover and reduced soil erosion should decrease localized emissions of naturally occurring windblown fugitive dust.	Impacts similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
4.16.4 From Biological Resource Management	In the monument, the use of prescribed fires has short term impacts on vegetation. The results could improve vegetation quantity and quality. Limits on mechanical vegetation treatment have the potential to assist invasive species to encroach. Modifying fencing to allow for wildlife movement could increase the movement of livestock across pastures and allotments. Native fish transplants could require restricting livestock use or excluding livestock from the site to prevent harming the fish. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, mitigation and closure of waters could result in poor livestock distribution and added operation costs.	Impacts on the monument are similar to Alternative A. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, prohibiting construction of range improvements in Browns Canyon could limit opportunities to improve livestock distribution in the Aguila allotment. Potential restrictions to vehicle routes could limit access to range improvements, increasing maintenance costs. Reduced vehicle use may reduce vehicle-animal impacts and disturbance. Prohibiting domestic sheep and goat grazing within 9 miles of occupied desert bighorn sheep habitat would affect 1 grazing allotment where sheep are currently an authorized class of livestock.	Impacts are similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are similar to Alternative B.
4.16.5 From Cultural Resource Management	Site protection measures to exclude livestock from sites through fencing may slightly reduce available forage. Impacts are expected to be negligible.	For both planning areas, High public use development would damage vegetation in the immediate area of the site construction. Depending on the level of public use, surrounding vegetation could also be damaged by increased visitor use. If the protected areas contain	Impacts would be the same as described by Alternative B.	Impacts would be the same as described by Alternative B.	Impacts would be the same as described by Alternative B.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		existing livestock water sources, more watering locations or facilities would need to be developed outside of these areas. Moderate public use impacts to vegetation would be minimal, and Low public use impacts would even be smaller.			
4.16.6 From Paleontological Resource Management	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.
4.16.7 From Recreation Management	Current OHV designations, limited to existing roads and trails, lead to proliferation of vehicle routes, disturbance to vegetation, vehicle-animal encounters, and vandalism of range improvements and private property. SRPs have the potential to have similar effects, but may be slightly lower due to imposed limitations and restrictions.	Recreation allocations on the monument are not expected to affect rangeland resources or use. Increased visitation is expected to bring increased vehicle numbers, increasing animal-vehicle encounters, and vectoring of invasive weeds. Limiting vehicles to designated routes will reduce vehicle related impacts. Other recreation impacts in the Bradshaw-Harquahala would include recreational target shooting being prohibited on 27,570 acres and restricted near High public use areas, resulting in a decreased risk of	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B, except: In the monument, reduced Front Country and increased Back Country RMZs would reduce people-livestock encounters and associated visitor impacts. Reductions in route miles may make some areas difficult to access, increasing operating costs of grazing permits. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, recreational target shooting restrictions could further reduce potential conflicts with livestock and shooting. Reduced	Impacts in from recreation would be similar to those described for Alternative C, except that the Cessation of grazing would eliminate impacts to livestock.	In the monument, allocations for the Front Country, Back Country, and Passage zones are not expected to affect rangeland resources or use. For both planning areas, confining vehicles to designated routes would have impacts are similar to Alternative C. Activities authorized through Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) are expected to have impacts similar to those in Alternative B.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		animal stress and mortality. Depending on the size of the campground/staging areas to be developed iauthorized livestock grazing might need to be adjusted. New trails established for pedestrian, non-motorized, and motorized use could increase the risk of animal stress and potential mortality from collisions with vehicles.	special use permits issued motorized race events could reduce the risk of disturbance to livestock and mortality from collisions with vehicles.		
4.16.8 From Visual Resource Management	No impacts are expected from VRM.	Impacts resulting from VRM management classes would include increased costs of range project developments to conform to VRM class objectives, location of some projects in less desirable places, or possible denial of some projects that cannot conform to VRM class objectives.	Impacts would be the same as described for Alternative B.	Alternative D eliminates grazing from the planning area, so no impacts are expected from VRM management.	Impacts would be the same as described for Alternative B.
4.16.9 From Rangeland Management	No impacts are expected.	Winter only grazing in riparian areas would improve health and density of vegetation. Livestock distributions may be disrupted in some areas, and loss of water sources in summer may require development of range improvements to replace the lost water.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B, except: Prohibiting grazing in riparian areas in the monument would close 25,989 acres to livestock. Prohibiting grazing in Bradshaw-Harquahala would potentially close 249,400 acres to livestock.	Closing all allotments to grazing would eliminate 13,492 AUMs in the monument and 69,568 AUMs in the Bradshaw-Harquahala. If ranchers cannot find alternative forage for their livestock, holders of all 104 permits and leases will go out of business. Cost of removal of unnecessary	Impacts would be similar to those in Alternative B.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		Implementation of the Land Health Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration could reduce livestock numbers, rest or close pastures, or convert some pastures or allotments to ephemeral use.	For both planning areas, the potential loss in availability to livestock grazing from riparian closure would be greater than for closing upland areas. The loss of water sources in some instances could result in no grazing on public lands. Riparian vegetation and vegetation cover would increase more rapidly than in Alternative B.	range improvements would be born by the BLM, as well as costs of maintaining facilities used for other purposes. Vegetation conditions would improve until environmental stability is reached.	
4.16.10 From Minerals Management	The monument is closed to new mineral entry. This action eliminates the risk of increased livestock-vehicle collisions. Also avoided would be the loss of productive rangeland vegetation to the surface disturbance of mining. Impacts in the Bradshaw-Harquahala are expected to be negligible.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A.
4.16.11 From Fire Management	Short term impacts from removal of forage and closure of pastures before and after burning. Fire treatments would affect grazing, but would also improve vegetation quality and quantity.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A.
4.16.12 From Wild Horse and Burro Management	No impacts are expected in the monument because of	Impacts are similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are similar to Alternative A.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	the lack of burros in the area. In the Bradshaw-Harquahala, current conditions for burros would be maintained in the Lake Pleasant HMA. If all herds are removed, upland vegetation would increase, riparian areas would improve, and competition for water between livestock and wildlife would decrease.				
4.16.13 From Management of Transportation and Public Access	Vehicle limitations in Perry Mesa ACEC have reduced the potential for upland vegetation damage by unauthorized cross-country OHV travel. Damage to roadside vegetation has increased due to unauthorized OHV travel around poorly maintained segments of roadway. Decreased OHV travel would reduce the potential for animal stress. The OHV travel restriction has also decreased the potential for animal-vehicle collisions.	Limiting vehicular travel in these same areas would reduce damage to upland and riparian vegetation, stress to animals, risk of animal-vehocle collisions, and potential vectoring of noxious weeds.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B.
4.16.14 From Management of Wilderness Characteristics	No impacts are expected.	For both planning areas, small impact are expected by preventing the construction of new range	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		improvements. This may have an adverse impact on improving livestock distribution through the prohibition of development of new livestock waters.			
4.17 Impacts on Minerals and Energy Resources					
4.17.1 From Management of Special Area Designations	Mining closed in designated areas, including wilderness and the monument prevents any potential resources in these areas from being developed. Potential is low for leasable minerals, moderate for salable minerals, and varies for locatable minerals. Current needs and future demands of public users would be affected.	Impacts would be the similar to Alternative A, except Tule Creek ACEC in Bradshaw-Harquahala would be closed to mining. This is expected to have negligible impact. This could result in a loss of economic opportunity or prohibit future development or expansion.	Impacts would be the similar to Alternative A in the monument. Impacts in Bradshaw-Harquahala would be similar to Alternative B, except more areas would be closed to mining including Sheep Mountain RNA ACEC. Material disposal in Vulture Mountains Raptor Area ACEC and Black Butte ONA ACEC would prevent the sale of sand, gravel and decorative rock.	Impacts would be the similar to Alternative C, except more acreage would be specially designated. Mineral development would also be closed in Baldy Mountain ONA ACEC, Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC, and Vulture Mountains ACEC. Any potential leasing and sales would not occur in the Belmont-Big Horn Mountains ACEC.	Acreage of closures are similar to Alternative A, but desired future conditions for the ACECs makes the impacts more like Alternative C.
4.17.2 From Lands and Realty Management	No impacts are expected in the Monument. Acquisition of nonfederal mineral estate in two RCAs would increase potentially developable mineral resources. Closure of reconveyed lands in the Black Canyon corridor precludes opportunities for mineral development.	No impacts are expected in the monument. Rights-of-way, leases, and patents establish superior rights to future mineral development, but may also cause access restrictions. However, rights-of-way for roads, highways, and powerlines could improve access and infrastructure. Land ownership	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B, except opening small tracts and reconveyed lands for high potential areas only would limit future development opportunities. This would potentially reduce conflict with surface owners.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B, except that keeping all small tract and reconveyed lands closed to mineral development would be the same as Alternative A.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B, except small tract lands would remain closed. Reconveyed lands would be opened, but riparian areas would remain closed to mineral material sales. Impacts to mining development are expected to be minimal.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	Small tract lands closed to location could cause conflicts with surface owners.	adjustments may dispose of or acquire valuable mineral resources. Opening reconveyed lands to mineral development might provide further opportunities. Opening small tracts to locatable mineral development could increase opportunities but potentially create conflict with surface owners.			
4.17.3 From Management of Soil, Air, and Water Resources	Actions to protect soil, air, and water resources generally increase mine productions costs, occasionally rendering operations economically unfeasible.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.
4.17.4 From Biological Resource Management	Tortoise habitat restrictions decrease opportunities for developing mineral resources. Stipulations and mitigation for wildlife increase operating costs and permitting timeframes, and may potentially constrain mining actions. Mineral development is restricted in habitat for T&E species and discovery of a T&E species may	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	interrupt operations.				
4.17.5 From Cultural Resource Management	Cultural survey and mitigation for found cultural resources create delays in approval of mining operations and increase cost of mineral development.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.
4.17.6 From Paleontological Resource Management	Discovery of paleontological resources during development could increase the costs of mineral extraction.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.
4.17.7 From Recreation Management	Allocations such as SRMAs might minimize potential surface disturbances from mineral development and where development can occur. Though most of these allocations do not close areas to mining, compliance with management prescriptions could increase development costs.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.
4.17.8 From Visual Resource Management	No VRM Classes have been established. VRM has generally been managed to Class III, which is not expected to affect minerals and energy management.	Impacts of VRM Class III and IV would be similar to current standards, though Class IV would allow additional flexibility. VRM Class I and II would increase mining costs. Some discretionary mining and related infrastructure may be excluded if it cannot conform to allocated VRM standard.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.
4.17.9 From Rangeland	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
Management					
4.17.10 From Minerals Management	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.
4.17.11 From Fire Management	Prescribed burning and wildfires may affect access to mineral resources during fire operations. Management can protect mine developments by reducing the risk of devastating wildfires. Impacts would short term and would not affect long-term development potential.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.
4.17.12 From Wild Horse and Burro Management	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.
4.17.13 From Land Health Standards	Land Health Standards would potentially raise reclamation standards and costs, and result in a greater delay in bond release.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.
4.17.14 From Management of Transportation and Public Access	Transportation management requirements impose more limits on the number and location of roads and require mitigation to reduce impacts. Authorization would be required to drive off road to access mining claims or conduct exploration. Fewer access roads would inhibit access for prospecting. Improved road conditions leading to improved access would facilitate operating existing and potential mines.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
4.17.15 From Management of Wilderness Characteristics	No impacts are expected.	Lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics would be closed to mineral material disposal. Closing these areas would prevent the exploitation of potential resources, but would ensure preservation of natural and primitive characteristics.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts would be the similar to Alternative B except that in addition to closing lands allocated for management of wilderness characteristics to mineral material disposal, mineral and geothermal leasing would also be prohibited.	All public lands within the planning area would be open to mining except for legislatively withdrawn and segregated areas. As a result, areas allocated to manage wilderness characteristics would have no impact.
4.18 Impacts on Fire and Fuel Resources					
4.18.1 From Management of Special Area Designations	In areas with limits on motorized vehicles, the potential for human-caused wildfire ignitions could be reduced. Travel restrictions would not affect management. Areas of limited development with fewer improvements and structures would affect suppression. Wilderness areas limit suppression and access. No mechanized equipment can be used, affecting fire suppression strategies and options for fuel treatment.	Designation of Bloody Basin Road and **Constellation Mine Road** as Back Country Byways could increase the risk of human caused fires.	Vehicular travel would be further limited in this alternative, decreasing risk of human-caused ignition. Prohibiting grazing in the Harquahala Mountains ACEC could increase fine fuels on the surface, resulting in easier ignition and a more continuous fuel bed.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative C.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative C.
4.18.2 From Lands and Realty Management	Continued use of existing utility rights-of-way could increase opportunities for human caused ignition. Improvements and structures require additional fire protection, introduce	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A, except disposal increases to 58,400 acres.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A, except disposal decreases to 49,100 acres.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A. However, impacts related to land disposal are eliminated as no acres are available for disposal.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A, except potential disposal acres are 38,755.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	hazards to aircraft and ground resources, and restrict fire operations, thereby increasing overall costs. Disposing of 54,370 acres can consolidate federal lands, making fire operations more efficient and less expensive. Conversion of disposed acres to development would increase human populations and change ignition potential, fire behavior, and risk decisions.				
4.18.3 From Management of Soil, Air, and Water Resources	Meeting air quality standards limits the amount of prescribed burning. An approved prescribed burn plan defines measures that would be taken to reduce impacts. Implementing prescribed fire in fire-adapted environments and fuel treatments in other high-risk locations would improve watershed conditions, increase soil cover, and promote proper water flows.	Impacts would be the same as Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
4.18.4 From Biological Resource Management	Management of sensitive species limits prescribed fire, fire treatment, and fire suppression operations. The allocation of WHAs may decrease the occurrence of human-caused fires and overall suppression costs.	Impacts would be similar to those described for Alternative A, except further closures of vehicle routes to protect biological resources could reduce visitor use and decrease the opportunity for human-caused ignitions.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.
4.18.5 From Cultural Resource Management	The use of MIST minimizes the impacts on cultural resources and the landscape, although unintentional damage could occur. For fire suppression, consideration for cultural resources can result in larger fires and higher costs. Mitigation measures during prescribed burning would increase costs and time associated with planning projects, and excludes some areas from prescribed burns.	Impacts would be similar to those described for Alternative A, except increased public visitation from development of public use cultural sites may increase the risk of human caused fires. In addition, increased numbers and types of facilities could lead to changes in suppression decisions and commitments of suppression resources In Bradshaw-Harquahala, impacts would increase due to allocation of 316,103 acres SCRMAs and developing sites for interpretation.	Impacts would be similar to those described for Alternative B, except the number of sites developed for public use would be less and 276,527 acres are allocated to SCRMAs.	Impacts would be similar to those described for Alternative C, except the number of sites developed for public use would be less than in Alternative C and 125,292 acres are allocated to SCRMAs.	Impacts would be similar to those described for Alternative B, except the number of sites developed for public use would be less (but more than for Alternative C).
4.18.6 From Paleontological Resource Management	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.
4.18.7 From Recreation Management	Allowing continued open areas increases the risk of human caused fire ignitions as recreation use increases. Allowing target shooting	Continued dispersed camping will increase the risk of human-caused ignitions.	Impacts would be similar to those described in Alternative B, except the restriction of vehicle use in SRMAs could	Impacts would be similar to those described in Alternative B, except more routes would be closed than in Alternative	Impacts would be similar to those described for Alternative B.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	increases the potential for ignitions as shooting is a common cause of wildfire in some areas.	In both planning areas, increased visitor use could increase the risk of human-caused fires and change suppression decisions, prioritization of resources, and resulting costs.	decrease the potential of human-caused ignition.	C.	
4.18.8 From Visual Resource Management	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.
4.18.9 From Rangeland Management	Livestock grazing can reduce the loading of fine fuels, reducing the frequency and size of wild fires. However, grazing can also convert ecological types resulting in lower frequencies but higher intensities. Conversion to fire dependent annual grass communities greatly increases fire risk in these areas and may result in the eventual loss of native desert vegetation. Improvements for managing livestock present potential hazards to fire fighters and fire operations. However, suppression actions often depend on water from range improvements. In areas planned for fire treatment, livestock use can remove enough forage to	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A, except some naturally ignited fires may be allowed to burn in the monument. This may reduce the cost of prescribed burning, but may increase the risk of escaped wildfires.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	preclude prescribed burning.				
4.18.10 From Minerals Management	Mineral development in the Bradshaw-Harquahala may result in an increase in human-caused fire ignitions. Development associated with mining also increases the risk and complexity of wildland fire suppression operations. No impacts are expected in the monument.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.
4.18.11 From Fire Management	Full suppression of all wildfires helps to keep some fires small, reducing harm to resources. In Bradshaw-Harquahala 14,000 acres have been selected for prescribed fire treatments in the Weaver Mountains to treat hazardous fuel accumulations and reduce the threat of large catastrophic wildfires. Existing roads and disturbed areas would be used to avoid impacts to other resources. Wildland fire would not be allowed in Wildland Urban Interface. Prescribed fire	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A, except wildland fire could be allowed if defined prescriptive conditions are being met, especially in the Monument's tobosa grasslands. Wildland fire use would help to maintain and enhance grassland ecosystem, encourage perennial grass species, and reduce the encroachment of woody species. Wildland fire use would be beneficial in both planning areas except in the Sonoran Desert vegetation communities.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	operations would also be limited and costs increased.				
4.18.12 From Wild Horse and Burro Management	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.
4.18.13 From Management of Transportation and Public Access	Restricting vehicles to existing roads and trails would reduce the potential for accidental human-caused ignitions. Initially, no major impacts are expected, but as increases in vehicle travel on designated routes continue, the potential for human-caused fire will also increase.	Impacts to fire under Alternative B would be similar to those described for Alternative A. Road closures would reduce access to fires by ground initial attack resources, increasing initial attack response time. Fewer roads could be used as firelines, and larger fires may result with increased suppression costs. Road closures might also result in the need to build more firelines.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B, except more vehicle routes would be closed or limited.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B, except more vehicle routes would be closed or limited than in Alternative C.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B
4.18.14 From Management of Wilderness Characteristics	No impacts are expected.	For both planning areas, management of wilderness characteristics may impact fire suppression by preventing the construction of new firelines using heavy equipment. Management response will offset the impacts from the potential loss of heavy equipment.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.
4.19 Impacts on Wild Horses and Burros					
4.19.1 From Management of Special Area Designations	No impacts are expected.	Fencing burros out of Tule Creek ACEC would have a negligible effect.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B, except more areas would be specially designated.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B, but more areas than Alternative C would be specially designated.	Impacts would be the same as Alternative C.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
4.19.2 From Lands and Realty Management	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.
4.19.3 From Management of Soil, Air, and Water Resources	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.
4.19.4 From Biological Resource Management	Development of springs and seeps to improve ecological function could improve forage conditions and reliable water supplies. However, fencing those areas would reduce availability of forage and water.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A, except for the Harquahala Mountain WHA allocation which would have no effect on the burros.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.
4.19.5 From Cultural Resource Management	Fencing cultural sites could reduce available range and forage for burros. The impact is expected to be negligible.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A, except development of sites for public use could result in the increased congregation of visitors. This could increase the risk of injury to both visitors and burros and may reduce the quantity and quality of habitat.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.
4.19.6 From Paleontological Resource Management	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.
4.19.7 From Recreation Management	Increasing OHV use can increase vehicle-burro conflicts and burro-human encounters, increasing the risk of injury to both people and burros. Increased vegetation disturbance from recreation uses could slightly reduce available forage.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A, except closing some vehicle routes could decrease the number of vehicle-burro conflicts. Areas allocated to non-motorized settings could help minimize impacts to vegetation from motorized recreation, increasing available forage.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
4.19.8 From Visual Resource Management	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.
4.19.9 From Rangeland Management	Implementing Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Management could improve habitat conditions. Maintaining existing grazing practices could result in more water sources, but competition for these sources and forage would continue.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A, except construction of fences or other barriers to restrict riparian grazing would also restrict burros. This could limit available forage and water, decrease available range size and increase competition.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Eliminating grazing would eliminate forage and water competition between burros and livestock. Removal of unneeded grazing improvements could decrease water sources, but may also allow burros to expand their range.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.
4.19.10 From Minerals Management	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.
4.19.11 From Fire Management	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.
4.19.12 From Wild Horse and Burro Management	Management of the Lake Pleasant HMA would potentially enhance genetic viability of the herd. The social structure of the herd may be disrupted by removal of burros. All burros from the Harquahala HA are to be removed.	Impacts to the Lake Pleasant HMA would be similar to Alternative A. The Harquahala HA would not become an HMA, and removal of nuisance burros and burros damaging sensitive habitats could result in elimination of the herd.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.
4.19.13 From Management of Transportation and Public Access	Increasing OHV use could increase the possibility of vehicle-burro conflicts and cause a loss of habitat. The amount of available forage could be slightly reduced. The incidence of burro-human encounters could increase, intensifying the	Designated motorized routes could decrease the amount of available habitat and increase the risk of bodily injury to burros. Increasing levels of use by visitors on designated nonmotorized trails would further fragment burro	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	risk of injury to people and burros.	habitat. Burros could be harassed by visitors. Closing vehicle routes could decrease vehicle-burro conflicts. Areas allocated to non-motorized settings could minimize impacts to vegetation from motorized recreation, and increase available forage.			
4.19.14 From Management of Wilderness Characteristics	No impacts are expected.	Lands with wilderness characteristics would have minimal impacts on the number or location of wild burros. Closing vehicle routes could decrease vehicle-burro conflicts. Harassment would be less since most areas with wilderness characteristics have few trails and overall lower levels of visitation. Increases in primitive recreation in burro areas could increase harassment and movement of burros away from visitors. This would be significant only if the visitors occupy critical burro watering areas during periods of heat stress.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.
4.20 Transportation and Public Access					
4.20.1 From Special Area Designations	The monument would be closed to cross-country motorized travel. Existing routes would remain open. No impacts are likely to	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A, except slightly more routes would be closed.	Impacts in the monument are expected to be similar to Alternative B, except more routes would be closed (69.7% of routes	Impacts in the monument would be similar to Alternative B, except only 27.8%, of routes would remain open and	In the monument, 41% of route would be closed and one mile of new route would be added. There would be a

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	occur unless monument resources are damaged. Closing areas to protect monument resources could limit recreation. The Larry Canyon ACEC would remain closed and the Perry Mesa ACEC would limit motorized vehicles to designated routes. Five designated wilderness areas (96,820 acres) in Bradshaw-Harquahala would remain closed to motorized vehicle use. Motorized use on the Harquahala Mountain Backcountry Byway would continue. Interpretation, staging areas, amenities, route markings and periodic maintenance would benefit transportation and access.	Impacts of ACECs, wilderness areas, and Back Country byways are expected to be similar to Alternative A, except the Constellation Mine Road Backcountry Byway would positively affect the transportation network. Increased management would result in more positive visitor experiences, but use would also increase. This may negatively impact local residents. Improved management by signing, mapping and volunteers could lessen the impacts to local residents.	would remain open). In Silver Creek ACEC, 0.45miles of route would be closed to protect Gila Chub. The Bloody Basin Road Backcountry Byway would improve the opportunity for touring in the monument. Increased use could add to noise, litter and dust although mitigation may decrease these impacts. Impacts of ACECs would be similar to Alternative B, except the Black Mesa ACEC would restrict travel on routes traveling directly to or through cultural Sites and the Vulture Mountains ACEC would prevent new vehicle routes. The Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC would also prevent new vehicle routes from being constructed. Travel in Jackrabbit wash would likely be closed which could impact some users. Wilderness areas and the Harquahala Mountain Summit Backcountry Byway would have impacts similar to	new routes would not be added. Opportunities for motorized recreation would be limited. The Agua Fria River Riparian Corridor ACEC Would be designated in the monument. In ACECs within Bradshaw-Harquahala, 412 miles of routes would be closed. The quality and quantity of motorized recreational opportunities would diminish significantly. These closures could lead to the disruption and disconnection of multiple routes in the travel network. Impacts would be similar to those described in Alternatives B and C, except Baldy Mountain ONA ACEC, Belmont-Big Horn Mountains ACEC, and Sheep Mountain RNA ACEC would close more routes. Additionally, Vulture Mountains ACEC would increase by 3,320 acres and Harquahala Mountains ACEC would increase by 10,780acres.	noticeable loss of vehicle-based activities. Travel networks could be disrupted or diminished in some areas. Designating Bloody Basin Road Backcountry Byway would have impacts similar Alternative B. In ACECs within Bradshaw-Harquahala, 114 miles of vehicle routes would be closed. Most ACEC closures would occur in Harquahala Mountain ONA and Black Butte ONA. Impacts would be similar to Alternative C. Nominating the Black Canyon Trail would have impacts similar to Alternative D. Wilderness areas and the Harquahala Mountain Backcountry Byway would have impacts similar to Alternative A.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
			Alternative A.	Wilderness areas and the Harquahala Mountain Backcountry Byway would have impacts similar to Alternative A. Nominating the Black Canyon Trail as National Recreation Trail could positively impact nonmotorized trail users.	
4.20.2 From Lands and Realty	Authorizations would potentially expand the travel network as new rights of ways for private and state land access, and installation of new utilities continues. This would increase the route network less than 1% annually. Development of state and private lands could lead to the disruption or loss of public access.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.
4.20.3 From Management of Soil, Air, and Water Resources	Actions to protect or mitigating damage to soil, water and air resources could diminish the motorized route network. Examples of potential resources issues affecting private and state lands include fugitive dust and PM-10 emissions from public roads and OHV travel, soil erosion from hill	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A, except BLM would take direct action to lessen or avoid impacts on soil, water and air resources. The designation of routes, application of dust suppression technology, re-routing or closure of problem routes, application of buffer zones, SRMA prescriptions, and the improvement of	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B, except Alternative D would close more routes and networks within sizeable areas of the Hieroglyphic Mountains SRMA and associated locales.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	climbs and cross-country OHV travel, and changes in water courses or water quality due to OHV travel and the public use of non-engineered or poorly engineered travel routes.	existing routes would reduce impacts. Potentially, route networks could be reduced to protect air, water and soil resources, but this would not be significant.			
4.20.4 From Biological Resources Management	No impacts are expected.	Transportation routes and public access would be reduced. ACECs would contribute to a decline in access but would increase preservation of biological resources. In Bradshaw-Harquahala, 64,220 acres would be managed as WHAs which would limit access and vehicle routes that interfere with preservation of the habitat. This could shift transportation to other areas and concentrate vehicle usage on routes that remain open.	Management would increase over Alternatives A and B. More area would be restricted from motorized transportation. Impacts of WHAs would be similar to Alternative B, except 157,180 acres would be managed as WHAs in Bradshaw-Harquahala and 39,330 acres in the monument.	This alternative would close the most area to motorized access due to biological resource management and ACEC designation. Impacts of managing WHAs would be similar to Alternative C, except 18,020 acres would be managed as WHAs in Bradshaw-Harquahala.	Management would restrict less motorized access than Alternative D, but more than Alternative C. Impacts of managing WHAs would be similar to Alternative C, except 140,310 acres in Bradshaw-Harquahala would be managed as WHAs.
4.20.5 From Cultural Resources Management	Little impact is expected. A few specific vehicle travel routes could be closed to protect cultural sites or mitigate damage, but this would have little overall impact.	Some routes could be closed for cultural site protection. Route connectivity could be diminished and the quality of vehicle-based recreation pursuits would decline.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B, except management could further reduce route availability if conflicts were determined.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative C.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B. The potential closing of routes to protect cultural sites could diminish motorized recreation activities and possibly reduce the connectivity of route networks. Opportunities for access to some cultural sites

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
					would be reduced.
4.20.6 From Paleontological Resource Management	No impacts on expected.	No impacts on expected.	No impacts on expected.	No impacts on expected.	No impacts on expected.
4.20.7 From Recreation Resource Management	The monument is closed to cross-country motorized travel. Closing routes to protect resources could limit motorized-recreation opportunities. In Bradshaw-Harquahala, 2,240 miles of vehicle routes would remain open. Existing recreation opportunities would be unchanged. In some areas, route mileage would increase over the long-term as there is no limitation on motorized cross-country travel. These new routes would also expand into presently unroaded areas.	Impacts in the monument would be similar to Alternative A, except 38 miles of existing routes would be closed. Users of these routes would be displaced to other areas within and outside the monument. Recreational opportunities for motorized users would be enhanced by creating loop trails. Developing connecting route networks would allow all types of users to enjoy activities with fewer user conflicts. In Bradshaw-Harquahala, up to 48 miles would be closed in designated ACECs. In the remainder of the area, about 98% of existing routes would remain open. Up to 14 miles of new routes would mitigate losses from the closures and achieve better route connectivity. The total distance of open routes would eventually reach 2,100 miles. The overall effect would be to maintain	Impacts in the monument would be similar to Alternative B, except 69.7%, of routes would remain open to Vehicular travel. Impacts in Bradshaw-Harquahala would be similar to Alternative B, but Alternative C would close 382 miles of routes (mainly in ACECs and lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics). In the rest of the planning area, 1,889 miles of routes would remain open, and 382 miles of closures would be mitigated by up to 26 miles of new routes. The total distance of open routes would be 15% less than the existing routes. As a result, traditional users could be displaced and recreation opportunities diminished.	Impacts in the monument would be similar to Alternative B, except 27.8% of routes would remain open and no new routes would be added. Opportunities for motorized recreation would be limited, as loop trails would not be developed. Impacts in Bradshaw-Harquahala would be similar to Alternative B, except Alternative D would close 412 miles of routes in ACECs and lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics. Motorized recreational opportunities would be lessened by enacting specific route, wash, or area closures. This could result in disconnection of routes. In the rest of the planning area, 1,645 miles of routes would remain	Impacts would be similar to Alternative C in the monument. 101 miles of route would remain open, 1 one mile of new route would be constructed, and 70 miles would be closed. In Bradshaw-Harquahala, 211 miles of routes would be closed, 39 miles would be constructed, and 2,028 miles would remain open. Closures represent 9% of current routes. Management in ACECs and lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics would somewhat reduce the amount of lands open to vehicle-based motorized recreation and public access. Developing connecting route networks would have impacts similar to Alternative B. Once completed, the Black Canyon Trail from the Carefree Highway to

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		existing settings and opportunities. Limiting all mechanized vehicles to inventoried routes before completing the route designation process would eliminate cross-country OHV travel. This would not affect most users. Restricting vehicles to existing routes would prevent development of new routes.		open, 723 miles would be closed and 62 miles of new routes developed. The total distance of routes would represent a loss of 24% of the existing routes.	north of Highway 69 would become a major trail that would link the communities of the Black Canyon corridor and the north boundary of the Phoenix-Peoria metropolis. Managing the North Black Canyon Trail RMZ would enhance the non-motorized recreation. Impacts of limiting vehicles to inventoried routes before completion of the route designation process would be similar to Alternative B.
4.20.8 From Visual Resource Management	No impacts are expected.	Designation of VRM I and II classes could affect route construction or cause re-alignment of existing routes. Class I designation would allow few major motorized routes. Non-motorized routes would be easier to install. Class I and II designations could allow for routes in ACECs, but routes could be considerably restricted in ONAs with scenic values and landscapes.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		Installation of new travel routes within Class III and IV VRM class areas enable development of reasonable levels of access.			
4.20.9 From Rangeland Management	Little to no impact is expected. New rangeland developments might slightly increase access if routes are made available for public use. Closure of rangeland developments could eventually contribute to the loss of public access. Vandalism to livestock facilities from visitors could potentially lead to closure of routes.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.
4.20.10 From Minerals Management	New mineral sales, leases, NOIs or plans of operations may increase public access if routes are made available for public use. New mining routes could displace traditional trail users. Closure of mining could eventually contribute to the loss of public access when routes are reclaimed. Existing routes may be closed if active mining operations pose a threat to public health or safety.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.
4.20.11 From Fire Management	Some routes could be closed on a temporary basis due to fire suppression or controlled burns.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.
4.20.12 From Wild Horse	No impact is expected.	No impact is expected.	No impact is expected.	No impact is expected.	No impact is expected.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
and Burro Management					
4.20.13 From Management of Transportation and Public Access	The monument is closed to cross-country motorized travel, but existing routes are open. No impacts are likely to occur unless resources are found to be damaged. In Bradshaw-Harquahala, 2,240 miles of vehicle routes would remain open, and recreation would not be affected. Cross-country travel by some users could affect others by disrupting recreational and disturbing recreation settings.	Most routes would remain open to vehicular travel in the monument. About 5 miles of new routes would be developed and 38 miles of existing routes would be closed which could diminish some opportunities for motorized recreation. In Bradshaw-Harquahala 48 miles of routes in ACECs and lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics would be closed, which would decrease the opportunities of motorized recreationists but enhance the experience of nonmotorized users. 2,086 miles, or 98%, of routes would remain open. A total of 168 miles of routes would be closed and 14 miles of new routes would be established. The total distance of open routes would be 2,100 miles. The closures represent 6.3% of routes in the planning area. Limiting mechanized	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B, except: In the Monument, 50 miles of routes would be closed and about 6 miles of new routes would be developed. (129 miles, or 69.7%, of routes would remain open). In Bradshaw-Harquahala, 382 miles of routes would be closed in ACECs and lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics. Up to 26 miles of new routes would be developed and 1,889 miles of routes would remain open. The total distance of open routes would be 1,915 miles or 15% less than the existing routes.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B, except: In the Monument, no new routes would be added and 122 miles would be closed. Only 47 miles, or 27.8%, of routes would remain open to vehicular travel. Loop trails would not be developed. In Bradshaw-Harquahala 412 miles of routes would be closed in ACECs and lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics. Routes might be closed to meet resource management objectives and settings. In the rest of the planning area 1,645 miles of routes would remain open, and 723 miles of potential closures would be mitigated by developing 62 miles of new routes. The total distance of open routes would be 1,706 miles, representing a loss of 24% of the	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B except: In the Monument 70 miles of route would be closed, 1 mile of new route would be constructed, and 101 miles of existing route retained. The Black Canyon Trail would become a major trail for mountain bikers, equestrians, and hikers. Limiting motorized access on 216,900 acres would reduce travel in some secondary and tertiary routes, washes, and single-track cattle paths. A total of 211 miles of routes would be closed, and 39 miles of new routes would be established. The total length of open routes would be 2,028 miles. The closures represent 9% of the routes in the planning area.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		vehicles to inventoried routes would eliminate cross-country OHV travel. Cross-country travel would also be prohibited for game retrieval, potentially diminishing hunting opportunities. Restricting vehicles to existing routes would prevent development of new routes.		existing routes.	
4.20.14 From Management of Wilderness Characteristics	No impacts are expected.	Impacts of route closures in areas allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics would slightly reduce the amount of lands open to vehicle-based and motorized recreation opportunities.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B except areas allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics are increased. Restrictions could be imposed on specific route, wash, or area closures, further diminishing opportunities for traditional motorized users.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B except Alternative D proposes the greatest number of closed routes in lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics. Motorize d route systems would be significantly reduced or eliminated.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative B except 114 miles of routes in lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics would be closed.
4.21 Impacts on Wilderness Characteristics					
4.21.1 From Special Area Designations	No identified management actions are anticipated that would directly impact wilderness characteristics.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A.
4.21.2 From Lands and Realty	No impacts are expected.	56,040 acres would be managed for wilderness characteristics. Impacts may have a minor effect on wilderness	Impacts are the same as Alternative B, except 107,510 acres would be managed for wilderness characteristics.	Impacts are the same as Alternative B, except that seven areas totaling 91,480 acres would be allocated for managing or enhancing	Impacts are the same as Alternative B, except 96,420 acres would be managed for wilderness characteristics.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		characteristics within the Harquahala Mountain range. Realty actions deemed incompatible with maintaining or enhancing wilderness characteristics, would not be allowed.		wilderness characteristics.	
4.21.3 From Management of Soil, Air, and Water Resources	Management actions to maintain or enhance water, soil, and air quality would help maintain wilderness characteristics and provide a more natural experience for recreationists.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.
4.21.4 From Biological Resource Management	Habitat improvements could enhance wildlife populations and viewing opportunities, increasing the experience of wilderness users. Ensuring connectivity of habitat for wildlife could result in route closures for motorized vehicles, which could help maintain wilderness characteristics by limiting the number of visitors who have access to these lands.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.
4.21.5 From Cultural Resource Management	No impacts are expected.	Potential route closures could be used to protect cultural sites. This could benefit wilderness characteristics by reducing in public access and increasing opportunities for	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		solitude. Limiting group sizes at some cultural sites could maintain a more natural experience. Development of sites for public use would allow concentrations of users in certain areas, while limiting development would preserve the natural setting of places with wilderness characteristics.			
4.21.6 From Paleontological Resources	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.
4.21.7 From Recreation Resource Management	Increasing intensity of recreation next to lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics could result in a loss of some of those values. Increasing numbers of non-motorized users could impair solitude opportunities and contribute to trailing and campsite use impacts. No SRMAs or RMZs would be allocated, which could further result in loss of wilderness characteristics along fringes. Increased number of SRPs	Designating Front Country and Back Country RMZs could benefit wilderness characteristics through management of more intensive recreation uses. Opportunities for solitude would be enhanced in the Back Country RMZ. The restriction of motorized access could allow non-motorized users to recreate in a more natural setting. This would assure the availability of areas offering outstanding primitive recreational and solitude opportunities. Reduction in lands	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B, except that further restrictions on motorized use, a larger Back Country RMZ, and fewer SRPs would offer more solitude opportunities and retain more wilderness characteristics.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative C, except for further restrictions on motorized recreational use in the planning areas, more Back Country RMZ acreage, and fewer SRPs.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B, although motorized access would be somewhat reduced and restrictions on SRPs would more closely resemble Alternative C.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	could lead to increased numbers of users and conflicts, further deteriorating opportunities to experience solitude and wilderness characteristics.	available for competitive OHV events would help maintain opportunities to experience more natural settings.			
4.21.8 From Visual Resource Management	The application of VRM Class III standards may eventually lead to some intrusions in to the visual landscape in or around lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics.	Management of lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics to VRM Class II would retain the current physical setting of 96,150 acres and enhance primitive recreational experiences. Design criteria would maintain the area with little to no visual impacts and would retain natural appearance and open space value.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B, except 134,920 acres would be managed to VRM Class II.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B, except 226,400 acres would be managed to VRM Class I, which would require more stringent design criteria.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B, except that 55,480 acres would be managed to VRM Class II.
4.21.9 From Rangeland Management	Impacts would be minimal. Site specific water projects, fencing, or vegetation projects may impact small areas and associated local recreational users. Potential visual resource impacts will be mitigated and consistent with the management and enhancement of wilderness characteristics.	Impacts would be the similar to Alternative A	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A.	No expected impacts.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A.
4.21.10 From Minerals Management	No impacts are expected in the monument. Wilderness characteristics could be impaired, decline	Closing the allocation to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics to mineral material disposal would reduce the	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B, except wilderness characteristics would also be closed to mineral	Closing the allocation to mineral material disposal and sales would reduce the potential for landscapes to be marred

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	or be foregone withIn Bradshaw-Harquahala in areas not afforded protection of their wilderness characteristics.	potential area for ground disturbance and maintain primitive open space.		and geothermal leasing and mineral entry. This may impact the ability to meet future demands, but would further maintain primitive open space.	by mining and exploration activities. Natural areas and open space would be maintained and conserved.
4.21.11 From Fire Management	No impacts are expected	No impacts are expected	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.
4.21.12 From Wild Horse and Burro Management	No impacts are expected	No impacts are expected	No impacts are expected	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.
4.21.13 From Management of Transportation and Public Access	No impacts are expected in the monument. In Bradshaw-Harquahala road and route development, access rights-of-way and other developments requiring roads could adversely affect wilderness characteristics.	Adverse impacts on wilderness characteristics would be of a lesser scale than described under Alternative A.	Impacts would be similar to those described under Alternative B, except adverse impacts would be of a lesser degree than described under Alternatives A or B.	Impacts would be similar to those described under Alternative B, except adverse impacts on wilderness characteristics would be considerably less than estimated under Alternatives A, B or C.	Impacts would be similar to those described under Alternative C.
4.21.14 From Management of Wilderness Characteristics	Primitive or semi-primitive non-motorized settings would likely be maintained due to the management guidelines set forth in the Monument Proclamation. Wilderness characteristics could be impaired, decline or be foregone withIn Bradshaw-Harquahala in areas not afforded protection of their wilderness characteristics.	Allocation of wilderness characteristics would reduce access of motorized users. Nonmotorized uses would increase. These nonmotorized individuals would be able to recreate in a more natural and remote setting. Wilderness characteristics would be maintained or enhanced over the long term for proposed WSR suitable segments, ACECs	Non-motorized users would benefit more than under Alternative B as additional lands are allocated to maintaining or enhancing wilderness characteristics. Loss of wilderness characteristics would be minimal under Alternative C.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative C, except 91,480 acres would be managed to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics. This alternative would designate some of the areas described under Alternatives B and C as ONA ACECs.	Non-motorized users would benefit more than under Alternative B, but less than under Alternatives C and D.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		and ONA ACECs.			
4.22 Impacts on Social and Economic Conditions					
4.22.1 Planning Area Growth and Development					
Recreation Related Impacts	Designating the monument will likely result in increased visitor use. Activities that might be less available in the monument might place greater demands on surrounding lands. Use of land in the planning areas would continue to increase as the population increases. Visitation is expected to increase 55% by 2025. Growth and a continuation of current access would yield economic benefit to local communities that provide services compatible with recreation. Access for OHV users and equestrians would continue to benefit the economy. In the long term, as recreation continues to increase, resource conditions could deteriorate thereby increasing the need for more management.	Impacts would be similar to Alterative A, but development of recreation facilities would be encouraged to improve recreational experiences, resulting in increase visitation and use. Protection of biological and cultural resources would enhance the quality of experiences and increase visitation. 2,100 miles of routes would be designated. The allocation of nine SRMAs and eight SCRMAs would increase visitor use. One WHA and two areas proposed for lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics would attract visitors seeking more primitive experiences. Designation of Bloody Basin and Constellation Mine Roads as Back Country Byways could increase visitation.	Primitive recreation would be favored in the monument. The number of commercial and guide/outfitter permits would be about half of those than under Alternative B. Public access to cultural resources would also be more limited. Public access in Bradshaw-Harquahala would also be more restrictive than Alternatives A or B. Biological and cultural resources would be more protected. Visitation and visitor spending would be reduced. Economic benefits to local communities would be less for this Alternative than for Alternatives A or B but greater than Alternative D. Designation of Bloody Basin Road and Constellation Mine Road would have impacts as similar to Alternative B.	The emphasis on nonmotorized recreation would reduce visitation more than any other alternative by closing the most vehicle routes. No motorized competitive races would be authorized. Public access to cultural resources would be more limited than any other alternative. Visitation and OHV use would decline, resulting in somewhat lower visitor spending. If this loss is offset by increased nonmotorized recreation, the difference between the impacts of Alternative D and the other alternatives would not be so great. 1,707 miles of routes would be designated and use of trails would be limited. SCRMAs would be reduced to two, the number of areas allocated to maintain or enhance	Primitive recreation would be favored in the monument, but overall access would be greater than Alternative D. Total visitation and related expenditures are expected to be less than Alternatives A, B, or C.. Access in Bradshaw-Harquahala would be more limited than Alternative B, but less than C. Designated vehicle routes (2,067 miles) are expected accommodate use at current levels. Increased opportunities for nonmotorized recreation may increase overall visitation, but this is unlikely to greatly increase spending. Allocating SRMAs to more intensive recreation could attract more users. Use is expected to increase along with user satisfaction. Overall, the economic benefits of

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
		Overall, recreation demand would increase more than in the other alternatives resulting in increased overall spending by recreationists in nearby communities. The long term impacts of recreational use would be the same as Alternative A.	1,915 miles of routes would be designated. SCRMAs would be reduced to four, lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics would increase, and 11 ACECs would be designated, which would likely reduce visitation, although some communities would continue to benefit from providing services to recreationists. The long term impacts of recreational use would be the same as Alternative A.	wilderness characteristics would increase to six, and eight ACECs would be designated. Visitation and related spending would likely decline, although some communities would continue to benefit.	recreation are expected to be lower than under Alternatives A, B, and C, but greater than under Alternative D. Six SCRMAs would contain sites allocated to public use, which would have impacts similar to Alternative B. The increase in areas allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics and designation of 4 ACECs would provide nonmotorized opportunities. Allocation of Bloody Basin Road and Constellation Mine Road would be the same as Alternative B. The long term impacts of recreational use would be the same as Alternative A, except that management actions should result in sustainable conditions.
Ranching, Agriculture, and Livestock Production-Related Impacts	Increases in population and urbanization have resulted in loss of agricultural land and increased conflicts with	Impacts are expected to be the similar to Alternative A except that grazing in riparian areas would be	Impacts are expected to be the similar to Alternative B except livestock grazing is	Closing BLM lands to grazing would significantly affect holders of grazing leases,	Impacts would be the similar to Alternative B, except six SCRMAs will be allocated which might

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	farm and ranch operations. Livestock production on BLM land contributes to the local economy. Prohibiting grazing in the Larry Canyon ACEC and the WSR eligible/suitable areas has minimal impact on production and the economic impacts would not change.	limited to winter. Grazing would likely decline but would not measurably differ from current livestock management. Should allocating eight SCRMAs result in restricting grazing, livestock production may decrease.	prohibit in riparian areas, which would reduce the number of allotments to 43. This may eliminate or reduce some allotments to the point that ranches would no longer be viable. Impacts on the regional economy would be minimal.	local economies, and reduce livestock production in the state.	result in fencing some areas from grazing use.
Minerals-Related Impacts					
Locatable Minerals	The monument is closed to all forms of mineral entry. Bradshaw-Harquahala would generally be left open to mineral location and development. Should prices reach a high enough level to begin exploration or reopen mines, there would be a positive economic impact in mining employment and earnings. Recreational prospecting for gold has resulted in the formation of numerous prospecting clubs that hold mining claims. Businesses have begun to cater to their needs and support their social structure. Current access will allow continued use by these groups, and the	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A, except Alternative B would be the most encouraging to mineral development. Tule Creek ACEC would be closed to mineral location and development. VRM standards may increase costs of mining by requiring rehabilitation standards. Increased rehabilitation may result in economic benefits if local labor and/or material are used.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A, except for the closure of 3 ACECs and riparian areas. This could result in some economic limitations. Casual use miners and prospecting clubs could continue with their activities, except route closures may make it difficult or expensive to maintain access to claims. Impacts from VRM would increase compared to Alternative B, but be less than those under Alternative D.	This alternative would tend to more or less eliminate mining via attrition over the duration of the plan. It would also reduce mining-related additions to the local and regional economies, thereby limiting economic opportunity more than the other alternatives. Impacts would be similar to Alternative C, but more acreage would be closed to mining, and more areas would be classified as VRM I and II.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B, except fewer acres would be allocated to VRM Classes II and IV, and more acres would be allocated to VRM Class III. Re-conveyed lands, mainly in the Black Canyon area between Black Canyon City and Bumblebee, would be closed to mineral location and development along with Tule Creek ACEC.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	possibility of expansion to new areas.				
Saleable Minerals	Continued sale of mineral materials would contribute to local economies. BLM would continue to issue free use permits to the state and to local communities as the need arises. The result would be the continued availability of materials. Impact of mineral material sales is expected to be slight.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A, except Tule Creek ACEC and two areas allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics would be closed to mineral material sales. This would somewhat reduce the opportunity to extract those commodities, but the impact is expected to be negligible.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A, except ACECs and areas allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics would be closed to mineral material sales. These areas would be larger than in Alternative A or B.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative C, except more acres would be closed to mineral material sales. In the short term, demand is expected to be met by nonfederal and federal production. But future demand may not be met. Increased costs of importing building material will increase building costs in all parts of the economy.	Impacts would be similar to Alternative A, except Tule Creek ACEC and riparian areas would be closed to mineral material disposal. Impacts are expected to be minimal. VRM standards might affect mineral material and decorative rock mining.
Leasable Minerals	No known viable sources of leasable minerals exist within the planning area. No measurable economic impacts are expected except in areas that might be explored north of the planning area but within the PFO boundary.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A, except Tule Creek ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing which would have a negligible impact.	Impacts are expected to be the similar to Alternative A except mineral leasing would be prohibited in four ACECs and on scattered lands outside the planning area.	Impacts are expected to be the similar to Alternative A except mineral leasing would be prohibited in a number of ACECs and lands allocated to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
Lands and Corridors-Related Impacts	Disposal of 54,370 acres of BLM land would contribute not be a significant growth inducing action. -Development of disposed land would increase resource demands on remaining BLM land and could contribute to the loss of small, rural communities by increasing traffic and the need for more urban services. However, growth could also contribute to local economies. -Maintaining current utility corridors would meet future demand. Jobs related with future utility development could contribute to local economies.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A, except 58,400 acres would be available for disposal. The 58,400 acres would mainly affect the communities of Dewey, Humboldt, Mayer, and Goodyear for future potential development.	This alternative considers two options for land disposal. Under Option 1, 600 acres would be available, and impacts would be similar to Alternative D. In Option 2, 49,100 acres would be available for disposal and impacts are expected to be similar to Alt A. -Impacts of the multi-use utility and transportation corridor that includes the Interstate 17 right-of-way would be similar to Alternative A, except the corridor would be narrowed to move it out of the monument.	No BLM land would be available for disposal. This would have no measurable impacts on potential growth or availability of land for development. Retaining all BLM land may contribute to maintaining rural lifestyles in some parts of the planning area. Reduction in the level of corridors would support continued growth but may somewhat constrain siting of potential utilities in the future.	Impacts are expected to similar to Alternative A, except 38,755 acres would be available for disposal. This would mainly affect the communities of Buckeye, Goodyear, Wickenburg, and the greater Phoenix area. Impacts of utility and transportation corridors would also be similar to Alternative A.
4.23 Environmental Justice					
Impacts to Minority and Low Income Populations	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.
4.24 Cumulative Impacts					
Population Growth and Development	Potential effects of growth include the loss of ranching/related western lifestyle, and change in social leadership resulting from increases in urban values. Growth will result in economic changes. 54,370 acres of BLM land would be available for disposal by sale or	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A, but 58,400 acres would be available for disposal.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A, but 49,100 acres would be available for disposal.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A, even though BLM would make no land available for disposal.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A, but 38,755 acres would be available for disposal.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	exchange, but this is not expected to be a significant growth-inducing action and so there would be no measurable cumulative impact. However, growth would continue to impact resources on BLM land.				
Recreation and Visitation	Impacts would include intensified use in certain areas, especially for motorized activities, as recreation increases and growth and development occur. General plans for the counties and communities include provisions for open space, which is likely to further concentrated motorized activities on BLM land. Increased visitation is expected to result in increased local spending for recreational goods and services.	Impacts are expected to increase over those in Alternative A since visitation is expected to increase the most in this alternative. The trend toward non-motorized recreation in urban areas would be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to decrease as compared Alternatives A and B as this alternative favors primitive recreation and visitation would likely decline. The beneficial economic effects of recreation and visitation would be lower than under Alternatives A and B, but greater than under Alternative D.	Impacts are expected to decrease more than under Alternative C, as this alternative would devote the most area to nonmotorized recreation and close more areas to vehicular access. Visitation is expected to be the lowest and so cumulative affects would be least.	Primitive recreation would be favored in the monument and access would also be somewhat reduced in Bradshaw-Harquahala. Visitation and related expenditures are expected to be less than Alternatives A and B, but more than C or D.
Air Quality	Cumulative air quality impacts have been addressed by air quality non-attainment plans and maintenance plans prepared by MAG and ADEQ. -It is possible that increased OHV use would cause increased fugitive dust impacts immediately near the roads and trails. But future OHV emissions	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A, except the miles of trails open to recreation would decrease by 3%. Air quality impacts on the region would be minimal.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A, even though miles of trails open to recreation would decrease by 4%.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A, although OHV emissions and particulates in rural areas would possibly be less, given more restrictions on areas open to OHV use and competitive events.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A, although miles of trails open to recreation would decline.

Resource	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)
	would probably decline and contribute a proportionately smaller fraction of emissions.				
Soils	Cumulative effects are generally limited to a site. Management practices have led to some detrimental conditions. Development may compact and displace soil and remove vegetation. Soil productivity in these areas is lost for all practical purposes.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be the least of all Alternatives given that recreation and mining would be more restricted and grazing would be prohibited.	Impacts are expected to be less than Alternatives A or B, but more than C or D given that motorized recreation would be more restricted and fewer acres would be available for disposal and eventual development.
Water Resources	Many watercourses in central Arizona have been degraded by increased sediment load due to urbanization, livestock grazing, and recreation as well as leachate from mining. Under this alternative, these activities would continue.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A.	Impacts are expected to be less than those under other alternatives, given that recreation and mining would be more restricted and grazing would be prohibited.	Impacts are expected to be less than Alternatives A or B, but more than C and or D given that motorized recreation would be more restricted and fewer acres would be available for disposal and eventual development.
Wild Horse and Burro Management	No noticeable cumulative affects are expected.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative A, even though the Harquahala HA would not be a managed herd.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.	Impacts are expected to be similar to Alternative B.