

# Appendix B- Scoping Results

## Scoping Process

The formal scoping process began on April 24, 2002 with the publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register*. The NOI initiated solicitation for public comment. A total of 10 public scoping meetings were held during the scoping period.

Public meetings were advertised by a variety of methods. Volume 1 of the “Arizona Planning Bulletin for the Agua Fria National Monument Plan and Bradshaw-Harquahala Management Plan Revision,” available in both English and Spanish, was distributed to a mailing list of more than 1,700 individuals and organizations. The bulletin included a statement of the purpose and need for the project, a description of the public scoping process, information about upcoming meeting times and locations, and stamped, pre-addressed “planning worksheets” for each planning area. Interested parties were encouraged to complete these questionnaires and submit them to BLM to make their concerns known. The public was also invited to submit comments via e-mail or to visit the PFO in person to review comments received to date.

Legal notices of the public scoping meetings were published, as required, in six newspapers in the geographic area of the planning efforts. Flyers were prepared in both English and Spanish versions and distributed throughout the planning areas, and a press release was prepared and distributed to hundreds of media outlets throughout Arizona.

The scoping meetings provided an opportunity for the public to receive information, ask questions, and provide input into BLM’s planning effort for the two planning areas. Informative brochures and fact sheets were available to meeting attendees, and planning area maps delineating current land uses were displayed at each meeting. Discussions covered plan development and environmental review processes, in addition to relevant timelines. All comments were transcribed onto a flip chart during the meeting and were recorded via tape recorder.

## Collaborative Planning Process

BLM PFO contracted with James Kent Associates (JKA) to work with residents and community groups in the planning areas regarding their issues and concerns. JKA staff visited the communities of Wickenburg, Yarnell, Buckeye, Tonopah, Castle Hot Springs, New River, Black Canyon City, Cordes Junction, Mayer, Dewey, Humboldt, and Prescott Valley. They have also been in Phoenix, Flagstaff and Prescott, talking with environmental and recreation groups. Citizens have discussed their concerns with BLM land use management in their areas, as well as suggested ideas for improving current land management practices. Residents in some areas have even conducted community surveys in order to provide input and guidance to BLM in the planning process.

BLM has also focused on internally identifying management concerns and on reviewing their own policies and goals, and contracted with the consulting firm of Jones & Stokes to collect data, conduct meetings, and facilitate the planning process as required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

In the coming months, BLM will conduct workshops in a number of communities to develop alternatives for analysis in the EIS process. Alternatives must reflect citizen interests as well as agency concerns to

evaluate how land use decisions will be made in the future. Citizens are encouraged to participate throughout this process.

## Cooperating Agencies and Agency Coordination

The PFO held a cooperating agency workshop on October 30, 2002 to enable potential cooperators to meet each other, discuss BLM's planning process and the meaning of cooperating agency status, and begin developing the Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) that are required for entities to become formal cooperators in BLM's planning process.

BLM is currently working with the Arizona State Land Department, Arizona Department of Transportation, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Maricopa County, Yavapai County, City of Phoenix, City of Peoria, and Town of Wickenburg to establish cooperating agency status agreements. Additionally, Tonto National Forest and Prescott National Forest are working together to develop a joint MOU. A cooperating agency status agreement template has been sent to some agencies that have not yet replied.

Agencies were given the opportunity to comment as part of the scoping process. On December 19, 2002, a meeting was held in Phoenix to review the planning process and answer questions of agencies. Representatives from a total of 14 coordinating agencies were present. All agencies were encouraged to provide written comments by the December 30, 2002 deadline. The concerns of responding agencies were then entered into the administrative record and incorporated into the scoping report.

## Tribal Consultations

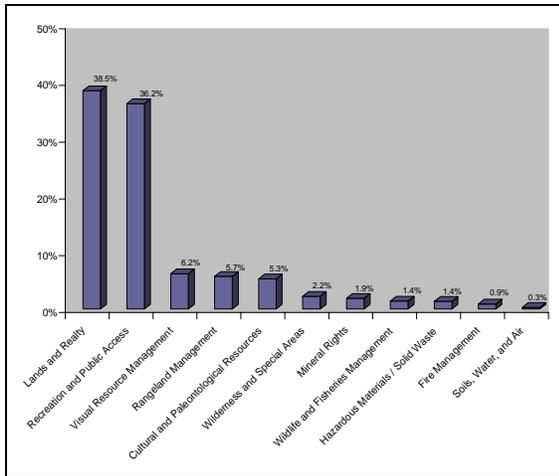
The PFO sent letters on May 10, 2002, to initiate the tribal consultation process with tribes who have oral traditions or cultural concerns relating to the planning areas, or who are documented to have occupied or used them during historic times. These tribes include: the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, the Yavapai-Prescott Tribe, the Yavapai-Apache Indian Community (Camp Verde), the Hopi Tribe, the Gila River Indian Community, the Colorado River Indian Tribes, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, the Ak-Chin Indian Community, the Tohono O'odham Nation, and the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe. Several interactions with tribal members have been made to solicit comments with regards to the BLM's planning effort. BLM will continue to consult with Indian tribes throughout the planning process.

## Collection of Comments

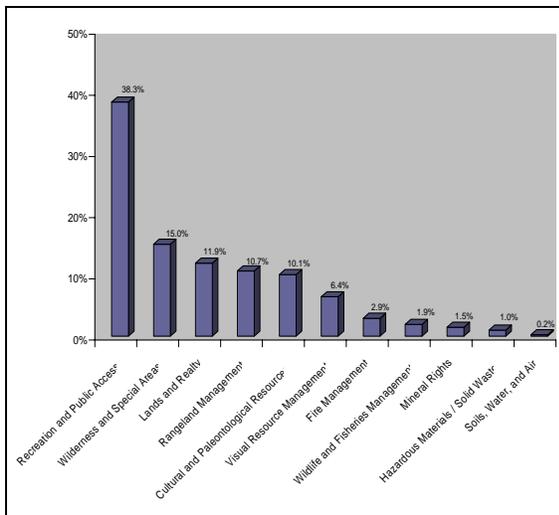
All scoping comments for the two planning areas were received or postmarked by November 15, 2002. BLM received 364 comments recorded from the public meetings and more than 900 written submissions of comments containing a total of 2,712 individual written comments. Of the total 3,076 comments received throughout the scoping process, 38% came in the form of completed planning worksheets, 15% as letters, 12% as oral comments recorded on meeting flip charts, 20% as emails, and 15% that were recorded as "other." The "other" category included signed petitions as well as formatted template letters from organized stakeholder groups.

## Results of Comments

All comments received for this scoping effort were assigned, based on content, to one of 12 designated issue categories. Comments were further divided into various sub-issues within each category. All comments were read, evaluated, and manually entered into an analytic database. Figures ES-1 and ES-2 below depict the most frequently mentioned issues for each planning area.



**Figure ES-1.** Public Response by Issue – Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area



**Figure ES-2.** Public Response by Issue – Agua Fria National Monument Planning Area

In an effort to relate the analysis and discussion of issues to the community level, the planning areas were divided into six community areas: Phoenix, Buckeye, Wickenburg–Yarnell–Castle Hot Springs, Prescott–Prescott Valley–Chino Valley, Black Canyon City–New River, and Dewey–Humboldt–Spring Valley.

Analysis by specific community area of the comments received led to identification and ranking of the issues of primary concern for each area. These results are presented in tabular form in the scoping report.

## Issues Considered but Not Further Addressed

As noted under “Results of Comments” above, all comments received for this scoping effort were assigned, based on content, to one of 12 issue categories. Comments were further divided into various sub-issues within each category. After lengthy consideration, BLM then assigned each sub-issue to a specific planning classification as follows:

- A—will be addressed in the current Resource Management Plan,
- B—will be resolved through policy or administrative actions,
- C—is already being addressed or will be addressed independent of the current planning effort, or
- D—determined to be beyond the scope of current planning.

**Table B-1** lists each sub-issue that was assigned to planning classifications B, C, or D.

**Table B-1 - Scoping.** Classification of Issues Considered but Not Further Addressed

**Table 1.** Classification of Issues Considered but Not Further Addressed

Issue	Sub-Issue		
	Planning Classification B	Planning Classification C	Planning Classification D
General Recreation		Designated open space and trails should be marked/posted as such	
General Recreation		Establish educational programs for all users of public lands	
General Recreation		Trails should be better maintained to encourage users to stay on trails	
Law Enforcement		Increase law enforcement efforts	
Law Enforcement		Increase preventative measures for vandalism	
Off-Highway Vehicle		Use volunteer help from OHV-affiliated groups	
Off-Highway Vehicle		Establish rules (and enforce where appropriate) for use of OHVs	
Grazing		Evaluate grazing	

Issue	Sub-Issue		
	Planning Classification B	Planning Classification C	Planning Classification D
		impacts	
Grazing		Maintain waters for livestock	
Grazing			Reduce grazing fees
Cultural Resources		Increase protection of existing sites and cultural artifacts	
Cultural Resources		Conduct cultural resource inventories	
Cultural Resources		Remedy archeological looting	
Cultural Resources		Establish/increase programs to educate public on cultural resource issues	
Wilderness Characteristics			Expand wilderness designations
Wilderness Characteristics			Expand Agua Fria to include New River and Tonto National Forest (A/F)
Wilderness Characteristics			Reduce amount of wilderness designation
Wild and Scenic Rivers		Manage Agua Fria River as Wild and Scenic (A/F)	
General Wildlife and Fisheries Management		Maintain waters for wildlife	
Hazardous Materials/Solid Waste		Increase preventative measures for litter/dumping	
Fire Management		Debris and brush clearing programs need to be expanded	
Land Tenure			Stop urban sprawl/No new development (A/F)
Land Tenure			Restrict development to prevent depletion of groundwater (A/F)
Land Tenure	Adjacent landowners should be better informed by BLM of pending changes		
Minerals		Expand mining activities (A/F)	
Minerals		Continue existing mining leases (A/F)	

## Tabulations of Comments Received

Additional **Tables B-2** and **B-3**, show the numeric distributions of comments received for the Bradshaw-Harquahala and Agua Fria National Monument planning areas, respectively. Comment tabulations are grouped by issue and sub-issue category.

### Tabulation of Comments Received

**Table B-2 - Scoping.** Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area

#### Tabulation of Comments Received

Tables 2 and 3, below, show the numeric distributions of comments received for the Bradshaw-Harquahala and Agua Fria National Monument planning areas, respectively. Comment tabulations are grouped by issue and sub-issue category.

**Table 2.** Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Sub-Issue/Comment</b>	<b>Total Count</b>
<b>Land Tenure</b>	Remove land from the disposal list	496
	Stop urban sprawl/No new development	133
	Restrict development to prevent depletion of groundwater	62
	Lands should be managed to preserve cultural and biological resources	38
<b>General Recreation</b>	Allow for recreational use	62
	Designated open space and trails should be marked/posted as such	17
	Establish educational programs for all users of public lands	17
	Develop multiple use areas	13
	Trails should be better maintained to encourage users to stay on trails	12
<b>Off-Highway Vehicles</b>	Maintain and allow OHV usage on existing trails	66
	Restrict and limit OHV usage on BLM lands	52
	Establish (or enforce where appropriate) rules for use of OHVs	44
	Establish educational program for OHV users	38
	Use volunteer help from OHV-affiliated groups	32
<b>Transportation Network</b>	Maintain public access	72
	Designations should also be made for primitive areas & motorized areas	49
	Close and rehabilitate all vehicle routes that threaten cultural and biological resources	27
	Create environmentally sensitive transportation system	21
	Allow public access for nonmotorized modes only	16
<b>Law Enforcement</b>	Increase law enforcement efforts	40
	Increase preventative measures for vandalism	10
<b>Visual Resource Management</b>	Land should be preserved and remain untouched	85
	Preserve natural beauty	34
<b>Grazing</b>	Continue leases for grazing	35
	Limit grazing	28
	Evaluate grazing impacts	27
<b>Riparian Resources</b>	Restrict access by livestock	12
	Maintain waters for livestock	3
	Protect the instream flow of the Agua Fria River	4
<b>Cultural and Paleontological Resources</b>	Increase protection of existing sites and cultural artifacts	78
	Prevent grazing in areas having significant cultural resources	7
	Conduct cultural resource inventories	5
	Remedy archeological looting	5
	Allow only limited access to existing sites, such as through guided	4

Issue	Sub-Issue/Comment	Total Count
	tours	
<b>Wilderness Study Areas</b>	Expand wilderness designations	28
	Conduct wilderness inventories	8
	Reduce amount of wilderness designation	2
<b>Mineral</b>	Reduce and limit mining activities	17
	Continue existing mining leases	14
	Expand mining activities	5
<b>General Wildlife and Fisheries</b> <b>General Wildlife and Fisheries</b>	Preserve habitat for birdwatching/wildlife viewing	18
	Maintain waters for wildlife	7
	Reintroduce native fish species to aquatic systems in the area	2
<b>Hazardous Materials / Solid Waste</b>	Increase preventative measures for litter/dumping	26
<b>Fire Management</b>	Return natural fire cycles	9
	Debris and brush clearing programs need to be expanded	5
	Return natural fire regime to mesa tops	3
<b>Soils, Water, and Air</b>	Conduct hydrological studies of watershed	3
	Restrict access to surface water from OHV users	2
	Restrict access to surface water from miners	1

## Tabulation of Comments Received

**Table B-3 - Scoping.** Agua Fria National Monument**Table 3.** Agua Fria National Monument

Issue	Sub-Issue/Comment	Total Count
<b>General Recreation</b>	Allow for recreational use	23
	Establish educational programs for all users of public lands	17
	Restrict shooting	11
	Trails should be better maintained to encourage users to stay on trails	11
	Build visitor center	9
	Joint BLM/community land stewardship programs should be enacted	8
<b>Off-Highway Vehicles</b>	Restrict and limit use	68
	Establish rules (and enforce where appropriate) for use of OHVs	35
	Establish educational program for OHV users	35
	Maintain and allow usage on existing trails	32
	Develop additional trails	28
<b>Transportation Network</b>	Create environmentally sensitive transportation system	76
	Close and rehabilitate all vehicle routes that threaten cultural and biological resources	56
	Designations should also be made for primitive areas & motorized areas	34
	Maintain public access	29
	Limit access to discourage extensive use	27
	Allow public access for nonmotorized modes only	20
<b>Law Enforcement</b>	Increase law enforcement efforts	34
	Increase preventative measures for vandalism	7
<b>Wilderness Study Areas</b>	Expand wilderness designations	99
	Expand Agua Fria to include New River and Tonto National Forest	41
	Conduct wilderness inventories	22
<b>ACECs</b>	Agua Fria River should be designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)	4

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Sub-Issue/Comment</b>	<b>Total Count</b>
<b>Wild and Scenic Rivers</b>	Manage Agua Fria River as Wild & Scenic	90
<b>Land Tenure</b>	Stop urban sprawl/No new development	85
	Lands should be managed to preserve cultural and biological resources	55
	Restrict development to prevent depletion of groundwater	19
	Adjacent landowners should be better informed by BLM of pending changes	5
<b>Grazing</b>	Evaluate grazing impacts	44
	Limit grazing	39
	Continue leases for grazing	16
	Reduce grazing fees	1
<b>Riparian Resources</b>	Protect the instream flow of the Agua Fria River	55
	Restrict access by livestock	27
<b>Cultural and Paleontological Resources</b>	Increase protection of existing sites and cultural artifacts	105
	Prevent grazing in areas having significant cultural resources	22
	Conduct cultural resource inventories	14
	Allow only limited access to existing sites, such as through guided tours	12
	Establish/increase programs to educate public on cultural resource issues	7
<b>Visual Resource Management</b>	Land should be preserved and remain untouched	86
	Preserve natural beauty	24
<b>Fire Management</b>	Return natural fire regime to mesa tops	27
	Return natural fire cycles	21
	Debris and brush clearing programs need to be expanded	2
<b>General Wildlife and Fisheries Management</b>	Preserve habitat for birdwatching/wildlife viewing	16
	Maintain waters for wildlife	14
	Reintroduce native fish species to aquatic systems in the area	3
<b>Mineral Rights</b>	Reduce and limit mining activities	17
	Continue existing mining leases	4
	Expand mining activities	4
<b>Hazardous Materials / Solid Waste</b>	Increase preventative measures for litter/dumping	17
<b>Soils, Water, and Air</b>	Conduct hydrological studies of watershed	2
	Restrict access to surface water from miners	1
	Restrict access to surface water from OHV users	1