

# ABSTRACT

The Agua Fria National Monument and Bradshaw-Harquahala Proposed Resource Management Plans and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMPs/FEIS) describes and analyses five alternatives for managing approximately 967,000 acres of Public Land in Central Arizona, north and west of Phoenix, AZ. Information provided by the public, other agencies and organizations, and BLM personnel has been used to develop and analyze the Alternatives in this PRMPs/FEIS. *Alternative A* is the No Action alternative and represents continuation of current management. *Alternative B* emphasizes recreation and resource development. *Alternative C* makes land available for recreation and resource development with greater opportunities to experience natural settings than in *Alternative B*. *Alternative D* emphasizes preservation of undeveloped primitive landscapes and opportunities for non-motorized recreation. *Alternative E*, the agency Proposed Alternative, provides for a balance between authorized resource use and the protection and long-term sustainability of sensitive resources.

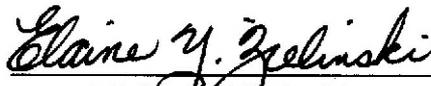
Major issues addressed in the PRMPs/FEIS include identification of lands that would be made available for disposal, management of recreation and public access, designation and management of Special Designations, management of areas having wilderness characteristics, and management of visual resources.

**Agua Fria National Monument  
and  
Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area  
Proposed Resource Management Plans  
and  
Final Environmental Impact Statement**

**Prepared by**

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Phoenix District Office  
Arizona**

**June 2008**

  
**Elaine Y. Zielinski  
State Director, Arizona**





# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Hassayampa Field Office  
21605 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Phoenix, Arizona 85027



In reply refer to: 1610-5.G.1.4

May, 2008

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review are the Proposed Resource Management Plans (PRMPs) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Agua Fria National Monument and Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area. The PRMPs/FEIS were prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in consultation with cooperating agencies, taking into account public comments received during this planning effort. They provide a framework for the future management direction and appropriate use of these planning areas, located in Maricopa County and Yavapai County, Arizona. The document contains both land use planning decisions and implementation decisions to define the BLM's management of the Agua Fria National Monument and the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area.

These PRMPs and FEIS have been developed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The PRMPs are largely based on Alternative E, the preferred alternative in the Draft Resource Management Plans/Environmental Impact Statement (DRMPs/DEIS), which was released on January 6, 2006. The PRMPs/FEIS contains the Proposed Plans, a summary of changes made between the DRMPs/DEIS and PRMPs/FEIS, a summary of the written and verbal comments received during the public review period for the Draft RMPs/DEIS, and responses to the comments.

Pursuant to BLM's Planning regulations at 43 CFR **1610.5-2**, any person who participated in the planning process for these PRMPs, and has an interest which is or may be adversely affected, may protest approval of this PRMP and the land use planning decisions therein within 30 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the Notice of Availability of the FEIS in the *Federal Register*. Please see the accompanying protest regulations in the pages that follow. E-mailed and faxed protests will not be accepted as valid protests unless the protesting party also provides the original letter by either regular or overnight mail postmarked by the close of the protest period. Under these conditions, the BLM will consider the e-mailed or faxed protest as an advance copy and will afford it full consideration. If you wish to provide the BLM with such advance notification, please direct faxed protests to the attention of Brenda Hudgens-Williams, BLM protest coordinator, at 202-452-5112, and e-mailed protests to: [Brenda\\_Hudgens-Williams@blm.gov](mailto:Brenda_Hudgens-Williams@blm.gov).

All protests, including the follow-up letter (if e-mailing or faxing) must be in writing and mailed to the following address:

Regular Mail:

Director (210)  
Attention: Brenda Hudgens-Williams  
P.O. Box 66538  
Washington, D.C. 20035

Overnight Mail:

Director (210)  
Attention: Brenda Hudgens-Williams  
1620 L Street, N.W., Suite 1075  
Washington, D.C. 20036

***The regulations comprise critical elements of your protest.*** Take care to document all relevant facts. As much as possible, reference or cite the planning documents or available planning records (e.g. meeting minutes or summaries, correspondence, etc.) To aid in ensuring the completeness of your protest, a protest check list is attached following this letter. This is also available online at <http://www.blm.gov/>.

The BLM Director will make every attempt to promptly render a decision on each protest. The decision will be in writing and will be sent to the protesting party by certified mail, return receipt requested. The decision of the BLM Director shall be the final decision of the Department of the Interior.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your protest, be advised that your entire protest – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your protest to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Unlike land use planning decisions, implementation decisions are not subject to protest under the BLM planning regulations but are subject to administrative remedies and review, primarily through appeals to the Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA), Interior Board of Land Appeals pursuant to 43 CFR, Part 4 Subpart E. Implementation decisions generally constitute the BLM's final approval allowing on-the-ground actions to proceed. Where implementation decisions are made as part of the land use planning process, they are still subject to the appeals process or other administrative review as prescribed by specific resource program regulations after the BLM resolves the protests to land use planning decisions and makes a decision to adopt or amend a Resource Management Plan (RMP).

These administrative remedies for final implementation decisions usually take the form of appeals to OHA, though for certain proposed or non-final implementation decisions, such as proposed grazing decisions, the regulations provide for an internal agency review (usually a protest to the Authorized Officer) which must be completed before the final implementation decision can be appealed to the OHA. This type of protest to the Authorized Officer should not be confused with the protest of land use planning decisions to the BLM Director.

Upon resolution of all land use plan protests, the BLM will issue two Approved RMPs and two Records of Decision (RODs). The Approved RMPs and RODs will be mailed or made available electronically to all who participated in the planning process and will be available to all parties through the "Planning" page of the BLM national website (<http://www.blm.gov/planning>), or by mail upon request. The Approved RMPs and RODs will include the appeals process for implementing decisions that may be appealed to the Office of Hearing and Appeals following its publication.

Sincerely,

Steven Cohn  
Field Manager, Hassayampa Field Office

[Code of Federal Regulations]  
[Title 43, Volume 2]  
[Revised as of October 1, 2002]  
From the U.S. Government Printing Office via GPO Access  
[CITE: 43CFR1610.5-2]

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TITLE 43--PUBLIC LANDS: INTERIOR

CHAPTER II--BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

PART 1600--PLANNING, PROGRAMMING, BUDGETING--Table of Contents

Subpart 1610--Resource Management Planning

Sec. 1610.5-2 Protest procedures.

(a) Any person who participated in the planning process and has an interest which is or may be adversely affected by the approval or amendment of a resource management plan may protest such approval or amendment. A protest may raise only those issues which were submitted for the record during the planning process.

(1) The protest shall be in writing and shall be filed with the Director. The protest shall be filed within 30 days of the date the Environmental Protection Agency published the notice of receipt of the final environmental impact statement containing the plan or amendment in the Federal Register. For an amendment not requiring the preparation of an environmental impact statement, the protest shall be filed within 30 days of the publication of the notice of its effective date.

(2) The protest shall contain:

- (i) The name, mailing address, telephone number and interest of the person filing the protest;
- (ii) A statement of the issue or issues being protested;
- (iii) A statement of the part or parts of the plan or amendment being protested;
- (iv) A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that were submitted during the planning process by the protesting party or an indication of the date the issue or issues were discussed for the record; and
- (v) A concise statement explaining why the State Director's decision is believed to be wrong.

(3) The Director shall promptly render a decision on the protest. The decision shall be in writing and shall set forth the reasons for the decision. The decision shall be sent to the protesting party by certified mail, return receipt requested.

(b) The decision of the Director shall be the final decision of the Department of the Interior.

## **Resource Management Plan Protest Critical Item Checklist**

**The following items *must* be included to constitute a valid protest  
whether using this optional format, or a narrative letter.**

**(43 CFR 1610.5-2)**

BLM's practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment--including your personal identifying information--may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

**Resource Management Plan (RMP) or Amendment (RMPA) being protested:**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Phone Number:** ( )

**Your interest in filing this protest (how will you be adversely affected by the approval or amendment of this plan?):**

**Issue or issues being protested:**

**Statement of the part or parts of the plan being protested:**

**Chapter:**

**Section:**

**Page:**

**(or) Map:**

**Attach copies of all documents addressing the issue(s) that were submitted during the planning process by the protesting party, OR an indication of the date the issue(s) were discussed for the record.**

**Date(s):**

**A concise statement explaining why the State Director's decisions is believed to be wrong:**