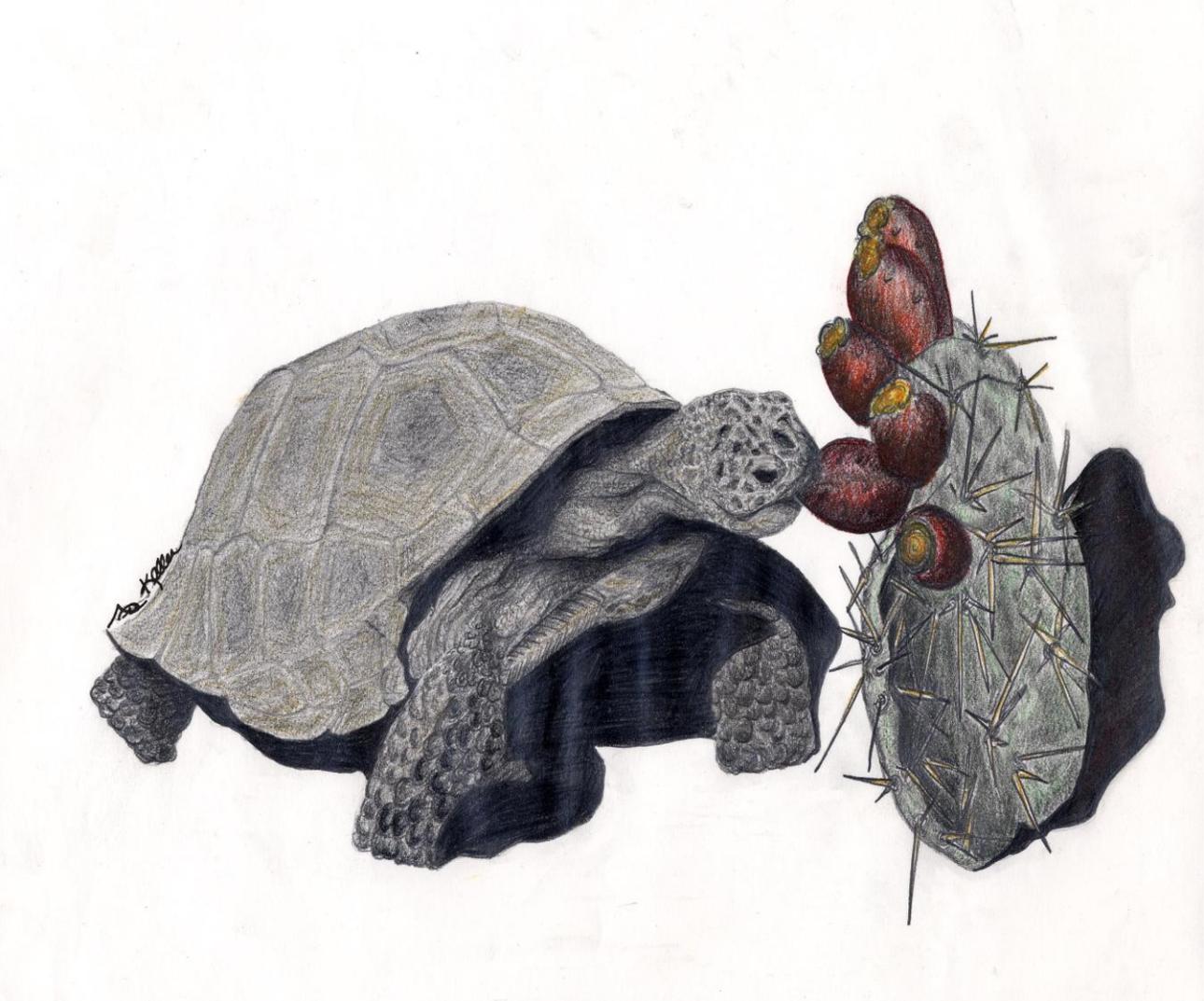


Chapter Two



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 Plans/Environmental Impact Statement (RMPs/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 Proposed 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 Designations Used in this Document

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

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

- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), designated by the BLM, 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 and suitability requirements may be designated by Congress to preserve their free-flowing condition and to protect their water quality and identified outstandingly remarkable values.
- Back Country Byways - Routes designated by the BLM 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 designations described above, several BLM 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 management 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 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 that are not afforded special management by the designations and allocations described above will be administered according to the management actions described in Section 2.7, Management Common to All Action Alternatives, and in the Management Units sections of this chapter.

2.1.1 Summary of Changes from the Draft to the Proposed RMPs/Final EIS

This section is included to describe the changes made in format or content of the documents in response to public and other state or Federal agency comments and concerns, as well as BLM management review to ensure consistency with laws and regulations

Based on public comments the following changes were made to the Proposed Alternative:

- In Section 2.6.2.2.3.1 Backcountry Byways were deleted
- Outstanding Natural Areas (ONA) were deleted from Proposed Alternative
- Deleted enhance from “enhance and/or maintain wilderness characteristics”
- Phoenix Field Office (PFO) changed to Phoenix District (PD)
- Wilderness characteristics acreage reduced
- In Chapter 3 Air Quality section was updated
- Chapter 4 was edited to reflect the impacts from inclusion of the Lower Gila Amendment to Alternative A and changes made to the Preferred (Proposed Alternative). Additionally, Chapter 4 was edited to remove inconsistencies with text in Chapter 2 (impacts described from route closures outside the national monument were eliminated).
- Table 2.8 was revised to reflect current content of the impact analysis
- Added appendices **R**-Lands Management, **S**-Benefits Based Recreation, **T**-Off-Highway Vehicle Mitigation Examples, **V**-Additional information for the Black Canyon Utility Corridor, and **U**-Special Status Species.
- Section 2.2.2.2 Lands and Realty, added additional land tenure adjustments comments.
- Section 2.2.2.4 Biological Resources, added comments referencing big horn sheep lambing areas with fencing and monitor livestock use of these key areas, livestock and burros at dirt tanks, firewood management, and desert tortoise.
- Changes were made in 2.2.2.6, Recreation Resources; a Special Recreation Management Area would be allocated for the Vulture Mountains. Special Resources Management
- Vision statements were added to the following sections: 2.3.2.2.1; 2.3.2.2.3; 2.3.2.2.5; 2.4.2.2.2; 2.4.2.2.4; 2.4.2.2.6; 2.5.2.2.2; 2.5.2.2.4; and 2.5.2.2.6.
- In Section 2.6.1.1 Special Designations the Bloody Basin Road is not being considered for designation as a Back Country Byway under *Alternative E* and Wild and Scenic River eligibility has been addressed for Agua Fria tributaries.

- In Section 2.6.1.4, the Rollie site in the Agua Fria NM was changed from a High Public Use area to a Moderate Public Use area. An error on Map 2-73 in the Draft RMP/EIS, which identified the Teskey Homestead Public Use area as proposed for the Moderate Public Use level, was corrected to indicate an allocation to High Public Use.
- In the Biological Resources sections new text has been added.
- Section 2.7.1.4 new text has been added to Administrative Actions-Gila Topminnow, Gila Chub and Desert Pupfish.
- Section 2.7.1.11 new text has been added to Recreation Settings; Primitive, Semi-primitive Non-motorized, and Semi-primitive Motorized.
- Section 2.7.3.1 Management Units has been deleted and renamed Special Designations, all sections following have new section numbers.
- Section 2.7.3.7 Travel Management – Management Actions has new text added.
- Section 2.10.2 Monitoring has new text added.
- Section 2.13 Interrelationships has new text added.
- Added Section 4.25 Mitigation for Effects of Routes and Appendix W containing information on proposed management of motorized travel in the Agua Fria National Monument.

The following changes were made but are not substantial:

- *Alternative E* (Proposed Alternative) would adjust the boundary of the Black Canyon corridor as shown on Map 2-79.
- In *Alternative A* (No Action) the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area is managed in accordance with the Phoenix RMP (BLM 1988a) as amended in the Approved Amendment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan and the Lower Gila

South Resource Management Plan (BLM 2005) and the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan (MFP) (BLM 1983).

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 general 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

consistent with the Monument 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 existing management plans and may be implemented.
- Decisions that do not conform to these plans 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 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 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 (there are no motorized routes within this ACEC).

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)***Management Actions***

Limit motorized vehicles to designated roads and trails.

Acquire 8,484 acres of State and private lands.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Nearly the entire length of the Agua Fria River within the monument, totaling 22.4 miles in three segments, has been determined as suitable for designation to the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The upper segment, from Sycamore Creek to Bloody Basin Road, is 7.7 miles long and classified as scenic (largely undeveloped but crossed by roads). The middle segment, including 10.3 miles dominated by the river's deep canyon, is classified as wild for its primitive character and lack of development. The lower segment, from an existing well and pump house to Larry Canyon, is 4.4 miles long and classified as scenic.

Following the guidance in BLM Manual 8351, until Congress makes a decision regarding designation, these river segments will be managed to protect the outstandingly remarkable wildlife, scenic, and cultural values that define their suitability for wild and scenic designation. Management actions will apply to the 20.8 river miles on public lands.

No new roads, or other facilities that would damage the primitive character, will be permitted in river areas classified as wild. Motorized travel could be restricted in areas classified as scenic, if necessary to protect outstandingly remarkable values. Routes in scenic areas should be inconspicuous and well-screened to maintain the scenic and natural character of these areas.

The river will be maintained in free-flowing condition without impoundments or diversions.

Instream flows will be monitored to determine the minimum flows necessary to sustain the river

values. Protective actions can include measures taken to sustain flows and improve water quality.

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, terminated, or maintained in accordance with valid existing rights, as defined in 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 may consider applications for new facilities if they determine that such facilities will protect or enhance monument resources.

Land Use Authorizations

Any land use authorizations, 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 authorizations may 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:

- 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, to include 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 Travel Management

Consistent with Proclamation 7263 (Appendix A) and the Purpose and Significance of Agua Fria National Monument, all motorized and mechanized vehicle use off road will be prohibited, except for authorized administrative and emergency purposes. Motorized and mechanical vehicular uses would be limited to existing or designated routes (Map 2-11).

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) as amended in the Approved Amendment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan and the Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan (BLM 2005) 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 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) (check map against the Lower Gila Amendment to verify available parcels) 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.
- Continue to dispose of federal subsurface estate under non-Federal surface estate on a case-by-case basis.
- Continue to acquire non-Federal subsurface estate under federal surface estate on a case-by-case basis.
- Public lands in the Gila Bend Management Area adjacent to the White Tanks County Regional Park, described as T. 2 N., R. 3 W., sections 4,5,8,9,14,15,17 through 22, 26 through 29, and 33 through 35; T. 2 N., R. 4 W., section 1; and T. 3 N., R. 4 W., sections 1,11 through 14, 24,25, and 36 would be retained in federal ownership and would only be available for disposal to local or state governmental entities for recreation/park purposes.
- Exchanges to re-position lands within all the management areas may occur if it has been determined that it would be in the public interest.
- Lands identified for disposal may be retained if significant resource values are found during evaluation. The policy is not to dispose of lands occupied by proposed or listed threatened or endangered species. If other public uses outweigh the value of a parcel as federal-owned threatened or endangered species habitat, disposal could be considered on a case-by-case basis. If a listed or proposed threatened or endangered species would be affected by a land disposal action, consultation or conferencing with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would be required. Exchange for other parcels of habitat

would be encouraged. Compensation for loss of habitat value would be required where such a policy exists. Other mitigation may also be required. These determinations would be made during preparation of the site-specific environmental assessments required for every disposal action. Environmental documentation must be in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act prior to the approval of any lands action.

- Lands not listed or identified for specific purposes would be retained in public ownership unless needed for recreation or public purposes. Such disposal proposals on lands not identified for disposal would be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- All non-Federal lands with high resource values within the boundaries of the management areas may be considered for acquisition. Acquisitions would occur primarily through the land exchange process in accordance with 43 CFR 2200 and the Federal Land Exchange Facilitation Act. Acquisition by donation and purchase using Land and Water Conservation Funds would also be considered when willing parties or available funds exist. All acquisitions would be negotiated with willing landowners only and must be in the public interest.

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.

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 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) as amended (BLM 2005) (eight of which are within the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area) would be retained, as shown in Table 2-1.

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 would 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 MRMA.

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.

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.

Avoid subdividing big horn sheep lambing areas with fencing and monitor livestock use of these key areas. Negotiate with range user to alleviate competition where documented. This would be done by change in season of use or by instituting a grazing system to rest lambing areas during critical lambing season (January through May).

Cooperate with the Arizona Game and Fish Department to allow reintroduction of big horn sheep into the Weaver Mountains and allocate forage to the big horn's reasonable population level one year before reintroduction.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department, in cooperation with the Phoenix District, may use re-establishment and augmentation to assist desert bighorn sheep populations in reaching their natural potential. Re-establishment and augmentation of desert bighorn sheep populations would be done in areas where conflicts with other uses and resources do not occur, or where conflicts can be resolved. Final decisions on re-establishment and augmentation proposals would be considered on a case-by-case basis within the appropriate level of National Environmental Policy Act documentation that addresses conflicts and meets the requirement for public participation.

Decrease cattle densities in big horn habitat to relieve competition between big horn sheep and livestock for space, water, and browse. Graze domestic sheep as far from big horn habitat as possible to decrease big horn disease vectors.

The significant botanical areas in Arrastre Creek (650), 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.

Prior to spring development, evaluate for clearance any planned spring development to avoid elimination of endemic snails.

Cooperate with Arizona Game and Fish Department to develop big game water catchments on public land at sites designated in the Lower Gila North Habitat Management Plan. Construction of the facilities would depend on availability of funding.

Establish cottonwood and willow regeneration around significant springs through supplemental planting and protection from livestock utilization. Significant springs include: Hackberry Springs, Weaver Mountain Springs.

Monitor selected aquatic habitat in cooperation with Arizona Game and Fish Department, State Health Services, and Environmental Protection Agency where water pollution is a problem to ensure that water quality meets appropriate federal and state standards. Improve conditions that do not meet these standards.

Establish broadleaf tree reproduction and perpetuation via supplemental planting of seedlings in existing and potentially suitable riparian habitat

Allotments, not managed intensively but possessing small tracts of riparian habitat, would be monitored and managed through Habitat Management Plans.

Provide wildlife safe access and year-round water at livestock waters on public lands and cooperate with allottees to develop similar considerations on private lands.

Develop small and upland game waters in 11 areas.

Use the very important browse species as “key species” in developing objectives and in monitoring grazing allotments’ activity plans (those species receiving importance factors greater than 7.0 in Ough and Miller 1980: 65-133. Key browse species would include one or more of the following: *Cercoparpus montanus*, *Atriplex canescens*, *Ceanothus greffii*, *Ephedra fasciculata*, *Populus fremonti*, *Simmondsia chinensis*, *Brickellia coulteri*, *Calliandra eriophylla*, *Eriogonum sp.*, *Krameria gravii*, *Janusia gracilis*.

Exclude livestock and burros at the following dirt tanks (75 acres) to enhance waterfowl and long-eared owl nesting opportunities: a) Special Habitat Feature (SHF) #95-Lone Mountain Tank; b) SHF #132-Mitchell Tank; c) SHF #150-Unnamed; and d) SHF #158-Unnamed.

Develop a fire management program for all cottonwood-willow riparian, mixed broadleaf riparian, and mesquite-salt cedar woodlands.

As Allotment Management Plans are written for allotments containing crucial desert tortoise

habitat, the recommendation to rest tortoise habitat from livestock use between February and July would be incorporated into the grazing systems. Implementation of intensive management on allotments would occur as per WL-2.6. Allotments which do not receive intensive management would be monitored as to livestock use. Adjustments in use would be made by changing seasons of use or number of livestock. Fencing out entire tortoise populations may be done, but only after contact with interested user groups.

Monitor the effects of livestock grazing on different range sites in open chaparral and cottonwood willow SHSs. Enclosures of varying sizes would be constructed. Size would depend on area needed for the purpose.

Develop a Fire Management Plan for Lower Gila North which incorporates protection for sensitive riparian habitats and Lower Sonoran habitats, establishes a mechanism for rehabilitation of riparian habitats, and establishes cover "level" strips in open and closed chaparral habitats.

The Harquahala Mountains would not be designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). An allotment Management Plan would be developed to protect this area from overgrazing. All other users or developments incompatible with the protection of this area would be restricted to the extent possible under existing regulations.

Control intensity and season of use by livestock on the Harcuvar and Harquahala mountains open chaparral SHSs

Develop a controlled (prescribed) burn plan to improve open chaparral habitat in the Harcuvar Mountains and, if not visually impacting, the Harquahala Mountains.

Continue to place wildlife escape ramps in water troughs and construct or maintain new wildlife waters in coordination with state and other federal agencies.

New livestock waters to be located within two miles from crucial tortoise habitat and/or crucial desert bighorn sheep habitat would be analyzed on a case-by-case basis to determine potential impacts. Significant impacts would be mitigated with appropriate stipulations on site selection.

Before installing facilities, BLM would conduct a site evaluation for state-protected animals and develop mitigation to protect these species and their habitats. Such mitigation might include project relocation, redesign, or abandonment.

During construction of rangeland developments, vehicles would use existing roads and trails wherever possible for access to sites. Where feasible or where no roads exist, vehicles would travel cross-country to avoid the need for road building. Where new roads must be built, roadbeds would be no wider than needed for reliable access; BLM specifications would also be used to reduce erosion and gulling.

During construction of all rangeland developments, surface resources would be disturbed as little as possible. After construction, disturbed surfaces would be restored to a natural condition as far as is practicable.

Fences proposed in big game habitat would be designed to reduce adverse impacts to big game movement. Specifications in BLM Manual 1737 and in local BLM directives would be used. BLM would consult with the Arizona Game and Fish Department on the design and location of new fences.

Where existing fences in big game habitat do not meet BLM specifications, they would be modified according to BLM Manual 1737 when they are scheduled for replacement or major maintenance.

As a general practice, new roads would not be bladed for use in fence construction. Vehicles would travel overland, or fences would be built by hand.

All livestock waters would provide safe, usable water for wildlife. As funding and opportunities

permit, existing facilities would be modified for safe wildlife use. The following standards apply to design and modification of livestock waters.

- The above-ground height of livestock troughs and tanks would not exceed 20 inches. BLM would install wildlife escape ladders in each facility and provide ramps for small bird and mammal access. Storage tanks would have either a metal or floating vinyl cover to reduce evaporation and prevent wildlife from drowning.
- Ground-level wildlife water developments would be established on livestock waters where feasible. An enclosure of three to seven acres containing the water source, storage, and related riparian habitat would be built to exclude livestock. Where terrain permits, livestock water would be provided at least 0.25 miles outside of the fenced enclosure.
- Developed spring storage and adjacent riparian habitat would be fenced to exclude livestock.
- Where practical, water troughs and tanks would be kept full year-round to provide a continuous water supply for wildlife.

The MFP and RMP planning areas have been inventoried for desert tortoise habitat and habitat categories have been established (Map 4-92). These boundaries may be slightly altered as new and better information becomes available on population distributions and dynamics.

Three one-square-mile study plots in the Harcuvar, and Harquahala mountains would be read every five years to monitor desert tortoise populations and habitat.

Environmental decision documents for all actions occurring in desert tortoise habitat would address and include mitigation measures sufficient to offset, to the extent possible, any loss of tortoise habitat quantity or quality in category I, II, and III habitats.

New land uses would be granted in category I, II, and III tortoise habitats only if no reasonable alternative exists. If no alternative exists,

mitigation, including compensation, would be evaluated to meet the no net loss goal.

Competitive off-highway-vehicle race courses would be prohibited in category I desert tortoise habitat.

Competitive off-highway-vehicle race courses would not be located in category II desert tortoise habitat unless no reasonable alternative site exists. If no reasonable alternative site exists, impacts would be fully mitigated.

Competitive off-highway-vehicle race courses would be evaluated in category III desert tortoise habitat and impacts would be mitigated.

Categorized desert tortoise habitat would be reviewed in relation to ongoing livestock use on public lands in the MFP and RMP planning areas; forage needs of desert tortoise and ecological site potential would be considered in determining and prioritizing the resolution of conflicts.

In category I and II desert tortoise habitat, only those range improvements for livestock that do not conflict with desert tortoise habitat or populations would be allowed.

New wildlife improvements would be allowed in category I and II desert tortoise habitats only if there would be no conflict with desert tortoise populations or habitat.

The Phoenix District would use the BLM's discretionary authorities relating to leasable and salable minerals to meet the desert tortoise habitat category goals and objectives.

Boulder sale permits would be restricted to areas that would result in no net loss of tortoise habitat.

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. This drive offers interesting views of an undeveloped landscape, natural features, and historical sites. 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 historical events, creeks, geologic features, and botanic values. Directional signing would be incorporated into the recommended interpretive corridor.

A Special Recreation Management Area would be allocated for the Vulture Mountains. Interdisciplinary planning, including public involvement, would be completed for all special recreation management areas to establish boundaries, type and level of facility development, resolve and mitigate impacts to other resources, evaluate and refine existing Recreation Opportunity Spectrum and Visual Resource Management classes, improve recreational opportunities, and reduce conflicts among public land users. The Vulture Mountains Special Recreation Management Area, to include lands surrounding Vulture Peak, the Vulture Mine, and the Vulture Mountains, would be established to emphasize diverse recreational opportunities including trails, natural and historic interpretation, camping, and off-highway and special recreation vehicle use areas.

- Facilities and maintenance to protect resource values and improve visitor safety and recreational opportunities would be authorized.
- Single-use and multiple-use trails to meet the demand for hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking opportunities would be developed.
- Signing, regulations, and brochures would be provided as needed.

Areas not allocated to a special Recreation Management Area would be allocated as an Extensive Recreation Management Area. Project level planning for the extensive recreation management area would be conducted on a case-by-case basis.

- Primitive facilities would be authorized where needed for resource protection, visitor safety, improvement of the recreation experience, or increasing recreational opportunities.
- Camping locations, camping stay limits, off-highway and special recreation vehicle use, and utilization of the existing natural resources would be established.
- Long- and short-term camping areas, commercial or competitive off-highway and special recreation vehicle use areas, scenic turnouts, cultural interpretive sites, hiking, equestrian or mountain bike trails, road and portal signage, and road maintenance would be evaluated.
- A "designated routes only" off-highway and special vehicle classification would be established on a site-specific basis when needed for resource protection or to maintain consistency with Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classifications.

Public lands in T. 10 N., R. 4 W., sec. 26 would be managed for their scenic values) to interpret the history, geology, and hazards to human safety of the area near the privately owned Placerita Mining Camp.

Establish a hiking and horseback riding trail system near Wickenburg. The width and exact routing of the trail would be determined through a process of close consultation with the concerned public. Identify the trail by standard trail markers and install hazard warnings where needed) Work with the Desert Caballeros of Wickenburg to establish a trail system between Wickenburg and Wagoner to ensure continuous management on public lands.

Management of recreation opportunities and developments would be evaluated using the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum and Visual Resource Management.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classifications would be reviewed, refined, and adopted during interdisciplinary planning.

The existing 14-day camping stay limit and all associated policy would be maintained throughout the planning area unless otherwise designated by the authorized officer or through project planning. Areas may be closed for resource protection, rehabilitation, or to reduce conflicts with other uses.

Camping facilities and length-of-stay limits may be established as prescribed below for dispersed camping, long-term visitor areas, extended camping areas, and short-term camping areas.

Camping would be permitted on all public lands unless otherwise designated, closed, or restricted for resource protection.

Self-contained or vehicle-based camping would be permitted within 50 feet of the centerline of designated or existing routes. Cross-country travel to campsites would not be permitted.

Trailhead facilities would be closed to overnight camping upon written approval of the field manager.

Long-term visitor areas (LTVAs) would be defined on the ground with fences or signs. Each LTVA would include designated roads, designated campsites, and amenities to support

long-term camping occupancy. The following resource factors would be considered for implementation and development of LTVAs:

- Permitted only in rural or roaded-natural Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes.
- Location on rocky or resilient soils.
- Well-maintained ingress and egress routes.
- Location within 30 miles of local community.
- Location outside of category I or II desert tortoise habitat.
- Mitigation if located in Category III desert tortoise habitat.
- Location with no cultural resource conflicts.
- Location outside of burro herd management areas.
- Location of developments in a manner that "is not likely to adversely affect" threatened or endangered species and their habitats.
- Location outside of riparian areas.
- Location outside of areas of critical environmental concern and wild and scenic river areas.

The following operating rules would be considered for LTVA development and use:

- Long-term camping would be restricted to the term of the permit.
- Long-term camping would be restricted to designated sites.
- Services may be provided by contract or local vendor, but the costs of services (firewood, sanitation, trash, water, etc.) would be the responsibility of each occupant.
- Users would be required to comply with all other LTVA regulations.
- LTVA users must comply with all local, state, and federal laws.
- LTVA supplementary rules may be enacted as needed.

Other regulations and conditions for LTVA use would be identified as required during

interdisciplinary project planning. If, during the planning process, the interdisciplinary project planning team determines that modifications need to be made to the guidelines listed above those modifications may be made without the need for a planning amendment. Other regulations and conditions identified during ongoing operation of LTVAs would require public notification.

Extended camping areas would be defined on the ground with fences or signs. Each such area would include designated roads, designated campsites, and amenities to support extended camping occupancy.

Interdisciplinary planning would evaluate and authorize extended camping areas where historic use patterns equate to this type of use, and potential new areas are identified that would be suitable for extended camping. The following resource factors would be considered for implementation and development of extended camping areas:

- Location only in rural, roaded-natural, or semi-primitive motorized Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes.
- Topographic or vegetative screening.
- Suitable ingress and egress routes.
- Location on rocky or resilient soils.
- Location within 30 miles of local community.
- Location outside of Category I desert tortoise habitat.
- Mitigation if located in category II or III desert tortoise habitat.
- Location with no cultural resource conflicts.
- Location outside of burro herd management areas.
- Location in a manner that "is not likely to adversely affect" threatened or endangered species and their habitats.
- Location outside of riparian areas.
- Location outside of areas of critical environmental concern and wild and scenic river areas.

The following operating rules would be considered for extended camping area development and use:

- Camping restricted to designated sites.
- Services may be provided by contract or local vendor, but the costs of services (firewood, sanitation, trash, water, etc.) would be the responsibility of each occupant.
- Extended camping area visitors must comply with all local, state, and federal laws.
- Extended camping area supplementary rules may be enacted as needed.

Other regulations and conditions for extended camping area use would be identified as required during interdisciplinary project planning. If, during the planning process, the interdisciplinary project planning team determines that modifications need to be made to the guidelines listed above those modifications may be made without the need for a planning amendment. Other regulations and conditions identified during ongoing operation of extended camping areas would require public notification.

Short-term camping areas would be designated only where such use promotes resource protection and where all conflicts can be mitigated. Short-term camping areas would be defined on the ground with fences or signs. Interdisciplinary planning would evaluate short-term camping areas where historic use patterns equate to this type of use, and potential new areas are identified that would be suitable for short-term camping. The following resource factors would be considered for implementation and development of short-term camping areas:

- Primitive ingress and egress routes.
- Location on rocky or resilient soils.
- Mitigation if located in category I, II or III desert tortoise habitat.
- Location with no cultural resource conflicts.
- Location outside of burro herd management areas.

- Location of developments in a manner that "is not likely to adversely affect" threatened or endangered species and their habitats.
- Location outside of wildernesses.
- Location outside of areas of critical environmental concern and wild and scenic river areas.

The following operating rules would be considered for short-term camping area development and use:

- Camping would be restricted to the terms and conditions of that campground.
- Camping would be restricted to designated sites.
- Services may be provided by contract or local vendor, but the costs of services (firewood, sanitation, trash, water, etc.) would be the responsibility of each occupant.
- Camping area users must comply with all local, state and federal laws.
- Specific supplementary rules may be enacted as needed.

Other regulations and conditions for short-term camping area use would be identified as required during interdisciplinary project planning. If, during the planning process, the interdisciplinary project planning team determines that modifications need to be made to the guidelines listed above those modifications may be made without the need for a planning amendment. Other regulations and conditions identified

during ongoing operation of short-term camping areas would require public notification.

Interdisciplinary planning would evaluate and authorize development of special use areas within the management areas.

2.2.2.7 Visual Resources

No VRM standards were applied in either the Phoenix RMP (BLM 1988a) or the Lower Gila North MFP as amended (BLM 2005). The Approved Amendment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan and the Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan, signed in 2005, adopted the VRM management classes as inventoried in the Management Framework Plan of 1983. In addition, all designated wilderness would be allocated as VRM Class I Acres of VRM Classes are shown in Table 2-2 and are portrayed on Map 2-9.

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).

Class	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed)
I	96,820	96,820	109,570	298,310	98,820
II	593,450	486,800	502,610	340,880	488,250
III	162,000	284,720	260,020	220,790	278,540
IV	144,730	98,660	94,800	107,020	103,390

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 District (PD) 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 PD 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 PD-managed lands 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.

Within the boundary of the Lower Gila North MFP as amended (BLM 2005), all lands in the planning area not closed to oil and gas leasing would remain open for such purposes. Federal minerals in designated wilderness are closed to oil and gas leasing. The remaining acres of federal minerals in the MFP planning area would be open to oil and gas leasing. Conditions of approval and special stipulations would be developed and incorporated as part of any operational permit after site-specific environmental analyses are completed and documented per the National Environmental Policy Act. Stipulations would mitigate impacts to special status species, cultural areas, and other resources affected by leasing-related activities.

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 would be met by sales or free use permits on a case-by-case basis.

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. Require performance bonds from all owner/operators to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation. Review leaching operations for environmental and human safety

2.2.2.10 Fire Management

Responses to wildfire 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 Hassayampa River RMA.

2.2.2.13 Travel Management

Land Use Allocation

OHV Designations (Map 2-11)

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. 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 as amended (BLM 2005) (BLM 1983) as amended by the Approved Amendment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan and the Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan (2005) Off-highway and special recreation vehicles would be limited to existing and/or designated roads and vehicle routes. No unauthorized cross-country vehicle travel would be permitted. Creation of unauthorized new trails and widening or extending existing trails would not be permitted. A "designated routes only" off-highway and special recreation vehicle classification would be enacted on a management area, or on a site-specific basis, when needed for resource protection or to ensure consistency with Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classifications.

The five designated wilderness areas would remain closed to all forms of motorized vehicles and mechanized uses, as legally mandated by the Wilderness Act.

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 its partners 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 Designations

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

No new 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 would be more like roaded natural, should it be further developed for public use.

Management Actions

Road maintenance would conform to BLM's Maintenance Intensity of Level 3 'Medium' (BLM Roads and Trail Terminology Report) 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.

Biological resources would be subject to the same management guidance as in Section 2.7.1.4 - Biological resources from the Management Common to Both Planning area and Section 2.7.2.5 - Biological Resources from Management Common to the Agua Fria National Monument.

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 SCRMA's 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 SCRMA's.

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 SCRMA's 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

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.

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 enterprises (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. Concessions and vending permits would be considered on a case-by-case basis, with determinations based on consistency with management objectives and clearly demonstrated visitor needs.

Dispersed Camping:

- Camping permits could be required if resource damage occurs that inhibits achieving resource DFCs, threatens resources protected by the 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.
- Camping would be prohibited within 1/4 mile of developed campgrounds.
- 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 1/4 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 1/4 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 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
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 the 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.
 - 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.

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:

Dispersed Camping:

- Camping permits could be required if resource damage occurs that inhibits achieving resource DFCs or threatens resources protected by the 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 Travel Management

Land Use Allocation

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

Management Actions

All vehicles would be limited to designated routes. Cross-country motorized travel is prohibited except in the case of an emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

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

Within Front Country

Trail Construction for Non-motorized and Non-mechanized 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 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.
- Where deemed necessary to achieve Desired Future Conditions, roads or trails may be closed and reclaimed to a natural state.

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 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.
- Where deemed necessary to achieve Desired Future Conditions, roads or trails may be closed and reclaimed to a natural state.

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 and Non-mechanized 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 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.
- Where deemed necessary to achieve Desired Future Conditions, roads or trails may be closed and reclaimed to a natural state.

Off-Highway Vehicles:

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

Within Passage

Trail Construction for Non-motorized and Non-mechanized 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 and non-mechanized 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.
- Where deemed necessary to achieve Desired Future Conditions, roads or trails may be closed and reclaimed to a natural state.

Route Construction for Motorized Use:

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.

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.
- Where deemed necessary to achieve Desired Future Conditions, roads or trails may be closed and reclaimed to a natural state.

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 137 miles

Routes Closed 37 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 provides for both developed and primitive recreation by establishing SRMAs and lands allocated to maintain 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 the Management Common to Both Planning Areas (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 these planning documents.

Lands that would be considered for potential acquisition would include State and private lands (willing seller) having important resources values. When acquired, these lands would be managed consistently with the resource management prescriptions outlined in this land use plan that apply to other nearby public 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

Under this Alternative, 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 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 Travel Management

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.

Vision

During the planning process, local citizens expressed their concerns and vision for the future of the Black Canyon MU. A diverse group of interested citizens are 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 community vision includes multiple uses that are consistent with and support the overall management objectives. 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 Highway 17 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 public

lands. The strategy includes a coordinated trail linkage between the Black Canyon City and Wickenburg areas.

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.

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. All have been identified for acquisition.

Communication Sites

This 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

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 biological allocations would be made within the Black Canyon MU. Biological resources would be subject to management guidance in Section 2.7.1.4 - Biological Resources from the Management Common to Both Planning

Areas and in Section 2.7.3.4 - Biological Resources from the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area section.

2.3.2.2.1.4 Cultural Resources

Land Use Allocations

Black Mesa/Bumble Bee SCRMA and Black Canyon SCRMA

Desired Future Condition

Cultural resources are protected to sustain their irreplaceable scientific, heritage, and educational values. Actions are implemented to monitor, limit, and repair damage. Partnerships and volunteers are utilized to support these objectives and management actions. Selected sites are interpreted to further public knowledge, enjoyment, and stewardship of cultural heritage values.

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 to sites allocated to public use, as long as they were conducted with protective stipulations in accordance

with BLM's regulations and provisions of 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 Travel Management

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 Travel Management 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.

SCRMAAs 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 Designations

Current special 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.

Special 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

No allocations would be made for biological resources within Castle Hot Springs MU. Biological resources would be subject to

management guidance in Section 2.7.1.4 - Biological Resources in the Management Common to Both Planning Areas of this chapter and in Section 2.7.3.4 - Biological Resources in the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area section.

2.3.2.2.2.4 Cultural Resources

Land Use Allocations

Lake Pleasant/Agua Fria SCRMA

Desired Future Condition

Cultural resources are protected to sustain their irreplaceable scientific, heritage, and educational values. Actions are implemented to monitor, limit, and repair damage. Partnerships and volunteers are utilized to support these objectives and management actions. Selected sites are interpreted to further public knowledge, enjoyment, and stewardship of cultural heritage values.

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 to sites allocated to public use, as long as they were conducted with protective stipulations in accordance

with BLM's regulations and provisions of 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.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in Section 2.3.2.2.2.6.

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 Castle Hot Springs Management Unit:

- the Hieroglyphic Mountains SRMA would be allocated to VRM Class III objectives,
- Hells Canyon Wilderness is 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 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 Travel Management

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 Travel Management 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.

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.

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.

Vision

During the planning process, local citizens expressed their concerns and vision for the future of the Hassayampa MU. 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. Strong citizen stewardship and land use ethics help to preserve health, diversity, and productivity of the natural landscapes in the area. Partnerships between BLM, Public, and Private Entities, including Maricopa and Yavapai Counties, the City of Wickenburg, and other government or non-governmental organizations, promote the long-term sustainability of the area and collaborate in management of public lands in the Management Unit.

A system of high-quality equestrian trails surrounds Wickenburg to buffer the area from urban sprawl and preserve the open-space value of local landscape. This trail system affords many opportunities for recreation enthusiasts and serves to enhance the lifestyle, culture, and culture history of community residents.

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 mining, livestock grazing and OHV use.

2.3.2.2.3.1 Special 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 Maintenance Intensity standard of Level 3 'Medium' (BLM Roads and Trails Terminology Report 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 allocations would be made for biological resources within Hassayampa MU. Biological resources would be subject to management guidance in Section 2.7.1.4 – Biological Resources in the Management Common to Both Planning Areas and in Section 2.7.3.4 - Biological Resources in the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area section.

2.3.2.2.3.4 Cultural Resources

Land Use Allocations

Wickenburg/Vulture SCRMA and Weaver/Octave SCRMA

Desired Future Condition

Cultural resources are protected to sustain their irreplaceable scientific, heritage, and educational values. Actions are implemented to monitor,

limit, and repair damage. Partnerships and volunteers are utilized to support these objectives and management actions. Selected sites are interpreted to further public knowledge, enjoyment, and stewardship of cultural heritage values.

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, to sites allocated to public use, could be authorized with protective stipulations in accordance with BLM's regulations and provisions of 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. Placement of interpretive signs along the Stanton-Octave-Yarnell road, as proposed under the Lower Gila North MFP, would be consistent with this management action.

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 these purposes:

- meeting the high demand for non-motorized recreation,
- vehicle parking,
- unloading animals,
- overnight camping,
- event operations,
- informational signing,
- dust abatement, and
- 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 Travel Management

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 Travel Management 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 SCRMA 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 Maintenance Intensity standard of Level 3 'Medium' (BLM Roads and Trails Terminology Report), 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 District 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 Designations

Current Special Designations within the Management Unit would be managed consistent with management actions described in Section 2.7.3.1 in the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area section of this chapter.

No new Special 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

Biological resources would be subject to management guidance in Section 2.7.1.4 - Biological Resources in the Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of this chapter and in Section 2.7.3.4 - Biological Resources in the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area.

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

Cultural resources are protected to sustain their irreplaceable scientific, heritage, and educational values. Actions are implemented to monitor, limit, and repair damage. Partnerships and volunteers are utilized to support these objectives and management actions. Selected sites are interpreted to further public knowledge, enjoyment, and stewardship of cultural heritage values.

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, to sites allocated to public use, could be authorized and conducted under protective stipulations that are in accordance with BLM's regulations and provisions of; 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'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.

2.3.2.2.4.5 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 to traverse the mountain range from south to north over the summit

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, 56,040 acres as portrayed on Map 2-31 would be allocated to maintain 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 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 wilderness characteristics would be closed to mineral material disposal.

2.3.2.2.4.9 Travel Management

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 Travel Management Prescriptions

Allocations to maintain wilderness characteristics are discussed in Section 2.3.2.2.4.6.

SCRMA 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 56,040 acres (Map 2-31) allocated to maintain 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 PD'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.

Vision

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.

Recreation settings and opportunities within the Management Unit 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.

2.3.2.2.5.1 Special Designations

No new Special 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

Biological resources would be subject to management guidance in Section 2.7.1.4 - Biological Resources in the Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of this chapter and in Section 2.7.3.4 - Biological Resources in the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area.

2.3.2.2.5.4 Cultural Resources***Land Use Allocation***

Harcuvar Mountains SCRMA

Desired Future Condition

Cultural resources are protected to sustain their irreplaceable scientific, heritage, and educational values. Actions are implemented to monitor, limit, and repair damage. Partnerships and volunteers are utilized to support these objectives and management actions. Selected sites are interpreted to further public knowledge, enjoyment, and stewardship of cultural heritage values.

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, to sites allocated to public use, would be authorized and conducted under protective stipulations that are in accordance with BLM's regulations and provisions of 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 Travel Management

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 Travel Management Prescriptions

SCRMA's 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

Cultural resources are protected to sustain their irreplaceable scientific, heritage, and educational values. Actions are implemented to monitor, limit, and repair damage. Partnerships and volunteers are utilized to support these objectives and management actions. Selected

sites are interpreted to further public knowledge, enjoyment, and stewardship of cultural heritage values.

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, to sites allocated to public use, would be authorized and conducted under protective stipulations that are in accordance with BLM's regulations and-provisions of 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-managed 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 Travel Management

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 Travel Management Prescriptions

SRMAs are discussed in Recreation and Public Access Section 2.3.2.2.6.2.

SCRMA 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 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 listed endangered native fish (Gila chub) and provides special features of value for studies of desert riparian systems. The area is listed 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 endangered native fish (Gila chub) and provides special features of value for studies of desert riparian systems. The area is 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 endangered native fish (Gila chub) and provides special features of value for studies of desert riparian systems. The area is listed 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.

This area would be unavailable for livestock grazing.

Lousy Canyon ACEC (80 acres)***Relevance***

Rare riparian deciduous forest

Importance

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

This area would be unavailable for livestock grazing.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Tributaries to the Agua Fria River would be studied to determine eligibility and suitability 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 Maintenance Intensity standard of Level 3 'Medium' (BLM Roads and Trails Terminology Report) 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 Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHA) 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.

Biological resources would be subject to management guidance in Section 2.7.1.4 - Biological Resources in the Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of this chapter and in Section 2.7.3.4 - Biological Resources in the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area

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 with 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

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.

visitor experiences by increasing access to a few archaeological sites and developing interpretive information about the national monument's cultural resources.

Areas would be allocated to SCRMA's focused on varying levels of public use as shown in Table 2-4 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 SCRMA's 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.

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 28,200 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 700 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) authorized uses such as grazing permits. The rest of the monument would be allocated as a Front Country RMZ of 42,000 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 42,000 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 28,200 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 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 2.4.1.6.

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 Travel Management

Land Use Allocation

The entire monument is allocated as limited to designated routes.

Management Actions

All vehicles would be limited to designated routes. Cross-country motorized travel is prohibited except in the case of an emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

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

Within Front Country

Trail Construction for Non-motorized and Non-mechanized Recreation Use: