

- Develop trails as needed to enhance resources and recreation experiences and to protect monument values. Any construction would be compatible with Desired Future Conditions for the construction area.
- Design trails to blend into the environment.
- Build loop, connector, and linear trails, depending on recreation, access, and resource objectives.
- Where appropriate, build trails to maintain connectivity to recreation opportunities such as hunting, equestrian activities, hiking, and viewing cultural sites.
- Where appropriate, build trails to link with other connector trails beyond the monument's border.
- Explore opportunities to link networks of non-motorized trails within the monument to trails outside the monument on other BLM-managed lands, or in other adjacent jurisdictions, including Tonto and Prescott National Forests, Yavapai County, and local communities, where linkages are consistent with monument values and do not impair protection of monument resources.
- Place priority for developing non-motorized trails on archaeological sites developed for interpretive use and visitation.
- Evaluate other non-motorized trails to enhance visitor access and enjoyment of monument resources. Such trails may include (1) self-guided nature and cultural resource trails, (2) trails to interpreted sites not accessible by vehicle, or (3) longer trails linking multiple sites for day or multiple-day trips.
- 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:

- All construction would be compatible with Desired Future Conditions for the construction area.
- Evaluate new motorized vehicle routes on a case-by-case basis, with determinations based on protecting and enhancing monument values.
- Enhance existing routes north of Bloody Basin Road to provide greater motorized recreation opportunities.
- 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 Section 2.7.2.10.
- Manage OHV access to provide for a variety of use experiences, including allowing public access to the monument's cultural and biological resources.

Within Back Country

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

- Develop trails as needed to enhance resources and recreational experiences and protect monument values. All construction would be compatible with Desired Future Conditions for the construction area.
- Design trails to blend into the environment.
- Build loop, connector, and linear trails, depending on recreation, access, and resource objectives.
- Where appropriate, build trails to maintain connectivity to recreational opportunities, such as hunting, hiking, equestrian activities, and viewing cultural sites.
- Where appropriate, build trails to link with other connector trails beyond the monument's border.

- Explore opportunities to link networks of non-motorized trails within the monument to trails outside the monument on other BLM-managed lands, or on other adjacent jurisdictions, including Tonto and Prescott National Forests, Yavapai County, and local communities, where trail linkages conform to monument values and do not impair protection of monument resources.
- 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:

- Build no new routes within the Back Country RMZ.

Off-Highway Vehicles:

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

Within Passage

Trail Construction for Non-motorized and Non-mechanized Recreational Use

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

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

- All construction would be compatible with desired recreation settings.
- Motorized route construction would be considered only as mitigation for resource conflicts.
- 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 Section 2.7.2.10.
- Manage OHV access to provide for a variety of use experiences, especially to provide access for public visitation of the monument's cultural and biological resources.

Implementation Actions

Public Access

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

Routes Open 123 miles

Routes Closed 48 miles

New Routes 6 miles

2.4.2 Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area

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

resource management (VRM) would be consistent with increased emphasis on resource protection. The management units (MUs) for *Alternative C* are shown on Map 2-39.

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

2.4.2.1.1 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

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

The first method selects lands with the following traits:

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

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

The second method selects lands with the following traits:

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

This method found 49,100 acres to be potentially suitable for disposal. Of these 49,100 acres, 5,200 acres are within the scattered lands outside the planning area boundaries but included in this planning effort. Other criteria limiting which lands might be selected as suitable for disposal are described in the Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of this chapter in the discussion under Lands and Realty Section 2.7.1.2.

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

Utility and Transportation Corridors

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

2.4.2.1.2 Rangeland Management

Land Use Allocation

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

Desired Future Condition

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

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

In riparian areas where livestock grazing precluded achieving Standard 2 of the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health (Land Health Standards), the standard could be achieved within 3 years.

Management Actions

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

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

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

2.4.2.1.3 Mineral Resource Management

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

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

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

Leasable Minerals

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

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

Saleable Minerals (Mineral Materials)

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

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

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

Locatable Minerals

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

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

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

2.4.2.1.4 Travel Management

Land Use Allocation

All public lands within the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area would be allocated as limited use areas, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes. The Hassayampa River Canyon, Hells Canyon, Harquahala Mountains, Big Horn Mountains and Hummingbird Spring Wildernesses would remain closed to motorized and mechanized uses (Map 2-16).

Desired Future Conditions

The network would consist of a system of areas, roads, routes and/or trails that promote access and recreation options. The travel management network and associated recreation opportunities would be consistent with other resource management objectives and recreation settings for the area.

Management Actions

Define, designate, implement, and monitor a comprehensive travel management network affording a range of high-quality and diverse motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities.

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. Until route designation is completed, all vehicle travel is restricted to inventoried routes as shown in chapter 3.

Administrative 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.

2.4.2.2 Management Units

Under *Alternative C*, six MUs are geographic units for presenting land use allocations. These MUs are summarized with their land use allocations and management actions in the following sections.

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

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

Allocations outside MUs are discussed in Section 2.4.2.2.7 and shown on Map 2-53.

2.4.2.2.1 Black Canyon Management Unit

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

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

2.4.2.2.1.1 Special Designations

Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Black Mesa ACEC (5,540 acres)

Relevance

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

Importance

This area contains a well-preserved collection of prehistoric and historic sites that can yield information important to scientific research, particularly relating to the immediate predecessors and development of the Perry Mesa Tradition.

Management Actions

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

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

Implement measures to protect cultural sites.

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

Close all routes that lead directly to significant sites.

Administrative Actions

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

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

2.4.2.2.1.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

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

Communication Sites

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

Utility and Transportation Corridors

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

2.4.2.2.1.3 Biological Resources

No biological resource allocations are located within this 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 section of this chapter and in Section 2.7.3.4 - Biological Resources in

the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area.

2.4.2.2.1.4 Cultural Resources

Land Use Allocation

Black Canyon Corridor 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:

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

Stabilize, repair, and maintain sites in good condition.

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

Administrative Actions

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

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

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

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

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

2.4.2.2.1.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

Table Mesa SRMA

Desired Future Condition

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

general motorized recreation use, commercial use, and organized events.

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

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

Develop only the facilities needed to meet resource management objectives and must be consistent with the desired recreation setting.

Management Actions

Manage for intensive camping, OHV use, equestrian activities, and casual use mining.

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

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

Limit to 10 acres the areas of exposed barren soil.

Prohibit motorized competitive races in the SRMA.

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

Administrative Actions

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

- determine existing physical and social impacts of recreation activities,

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

Land Use Allocation

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

2.4.2.2.1.6 Wilderness Characteristics

Land Use Allocation

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

Desired Future Condition

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

Manage with an emphasis on non-motorized and primitive recreation experiences, to augment the open space and natural landscapes. Desired recreation settings would consist of semi-primitive non-motorized tracts within the interior of the allocation with semi-primitive motorized tracts along boundaries.

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

Management Actions

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

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

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

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

Close the areas to mineral material disposal and vegetation sales.

Administrative Actions

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

2.4.2.2.1.7 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

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

Within the Black Canyon Management Unit:

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

2.4.2.2.1.8 Mineral Resource Management

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

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

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

Allocations to maintain wilderness characteristics are discussed in Section 2.4.2.2.1.6.

SCRMA and cultural sites allocated to Public Use are discussed in the Cultural Resources Section 2.4.2.2.1.4.

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. Until route designation is completed, all vehicle travel is restricted to inventoried routes as shown in chapter 3.

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

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

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

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

2.4.2.2.2 Castle Hot Springs Management Unit

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

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

2.4.2.2.2.1 Special 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 of this chapter.

Tule Creek ACEC (640 acres)

Relevance

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

Importance

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

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

Desired Future Condition

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

Management Actions

Close the fenced area to livestock grazing and motorized vehicles.

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

Administrative Decision

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

Sheep Mountain RNA ACEC (4,270 acres)

Relevance

Pristine biological resources, including desert tortoise habitat and potential desert bighorn sheep habitat, with open space and non-motorized recreation opportunities.

Importance

This is a highly scenic area with high-quality wildlife habitat undisturbed by vehicle routes and human activity.\

Desired Future Condition

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

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

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

Management Actions

Close all vehicle routes identified as reclaimed through the route designation process.

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

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

Do not permit vegetation sales.

2.4.2.2.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

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

Communication Sites

No designated communication sites lie within this MU.

2.4.2.2.3 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 section of this chapter and in Section 2.7.3.4 - Biological Resources in the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area

2.4.2.2.4 Cultural Resources

Land Use Allocation

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

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

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

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

Administrative Actions

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

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

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

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

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

2.4.2.2.2.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

Hieroglyphic Mountains SRMA

Desired Future Condition

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

Emphasize dust control and compatibility with neighboring communities and landowners.

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

Develop facilities with a variety of amenities consistent with the desired recreation setting. Visitors could expect contact with BLM's representatives frequently.

Nonintrusive signing would be present in most of the SRMA but might be absent in some areas.

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

Management Actions

Designate all motorized vehicle routes within this SRMA for general motorized recreation use,

commercial use, organized OHV events, and competitive races.

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

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

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

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

Limit to 20 acres the area of exposed barren soil.

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

Land Use Allocation

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

2.4.2.2.2.6 Wilderness Characteristics

Land Use Allocation

In the Castle Hot Springs Management Unit, 9,413 acres would be allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics (Map 2-54).

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

Desired Future Condition

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

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

Management Actions

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in Section 2.4.2.2.2.7.

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

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

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

2.4.2.2.2.7 Visual Resources***Land Use Allocations***

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

Within the Castle Hot springs Management Unit:

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

2.4.2.2.2.8 Mineral Resource Management***Management Actions***

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

2.4.2.2.2.9 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

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

SCRMA and cultural resources sites allocated to Public Use are discussed in Section 2.4.2.2.2.4.

Management Actions

Limit all vehicles to designated routes. No cross-country motorized travel would be permitted

except in cases of emergency or for approved administrative purposes.

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

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

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

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

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

2.4.2.2.3 Hassayampa Management Unit

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

The MU contains the following land:

- 181,910 acres of BLM-administered lands,

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

2.4.2.2.3.1 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 of this chapter.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Vulture Mountains ACEC (2,790 acres)

Relevance

The cliffs along the crest of Vulture and Caballeros Peaks are significant habitat features used by many species of raptors, as well as being a pristine, scenic landmark. These cliffs are essential to the maintenance of the current biological diversity of the surrounding area. Large concentrations of nesting hawks and falcons use these spectacular cliff faces.

Importance

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

Desired Future Condition

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

Management Actions

Prohibit mineral material disposal.

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

Prohibit the creation of new recreation sites.

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

Prohibit building of new vehicle routes.

Prohibit rock climbing in the ACEC.

Acquire non-Federal lands within the ACEC as available.

Back Country Byway

Constellation Mine Road *Desired Future Condition*

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

Management Actions

Evaluate and nominate the Constellation Mine Road for potential designation as a national back country byway.

Maintain the public portions of this road at a BLM Maintenance Intensity standard of Level 3 'Medium' (BLM Roads and Trails Terminology Report) and passable by high-clearance vehicles.

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

Secure easements and rights-of-way as described in Travel Management Section 2.4.2.2.3.9, where needed to ensure long-term public access along Constellation Mine Road.

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

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

Administrative Actions

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

2.4.2.2.3.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

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

In support of the Yarnell Special Recreation Management Area:

- Retain in public ownership Sections 22, 23, and 27 (Map 2-32) and all landing zones below Yarnell Hill.
- Acquire legal public access to the Yarnell hang gliding launching area through easements, rights-of-way, or land acquisition.

- Acquire the Arizona State Trust parcel southwest of Yarnell containing Fool's Gulch (Section 22) through purchase, legislation, or exchange.
- Prohibit new overhead powerlines, phone lines, or communication facilities within 1 mile of launching and identified landing zones.

In support of the Wickenburg Special Recreation Management Area:

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

Communication Sites

No designated communication sites are within this MU.

2.4.2.2.3.3 Biological Resources

No biological allocations would be made within the 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 section of this chapter and in Section 2.7.3.4 - Biological Resources in the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area.

2.4.2.2.3.4 Cultural Resources

Land Use Allocation

Wickenburg/Vulture SCRMA

Desired Future Condition

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

Management Actions

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

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

Stabilize, repair, and maintain sites in good condition.

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

Administrative Actions

Select sites for public use considering the following factors:

- presence of aboveground features of interest to the public and amenable to interpretive development,

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

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

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

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

2.4.2.2.3.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

Stanton SRMA

Desired Future Condition

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

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

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

Management Actions

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

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

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

Install informational, educational, and interpretive kiosks and trail signs where needed and suitable. 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 2.4.2.2.3.7.

Administrative Actions

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

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

Land Use Allocation

Yarnell SRMA

Desired Future Condition

This site is one of the most valued in Arizona for launching successful long-distance, non-powered flights. Maintain long-term public

access to the Yarnell hang gliding launching area. In addition, maintain the landing areas and approaches to landing areas as free of flight hazards as possible.

Management Actions

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

Land Use Allocation

Wickenburg SRMA

Desired Future Condition

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

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

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

Management Actions

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

- vehicle parking,
- unloading of animals,
- overnight camping,
- event operations,

- informational signing,
- dust abatement, and
- human health and safety.

Limit to 20 acres the area of exposed barren soil.

Locate and develop an ATV and a motorcycle trail network in the Red Top Trail area to give the local community motorized recreation opportunities and to shift motorized use from designated non-motorized trails. Use existing designated motorized vehicle routes, and, if necessary, create new routes less than 52 inches wide to meet the objective.

Prohibit motorized competitive races in the SRMA.

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

Maintain and upgrade the Vulture Peak Trail by rerouting some trail segments.

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

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

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

Withdraw from mineral entry, close to mineral and geothermal leasing, and close to mineral material disposal, an area around Box Canyon on the Hassayampa River to permanently protect its scenic quality and recreation values. The withdrawal would include the following sections: Township 8 North, Range 5 West, sections 12, 13, and 24; and Township 8 North, Range 4 West, sections 7, 18, 19, 20, 29, and 30. (Map 2-55).

Administrative Actions

Collaborate with a diverse group of Wickenburg citizens to conserve the ecological, cultural, open space, and recreation values of the Wickenburg area so that it remains a place where people want to live, work, and play.

Write a comprehensive strategy and trails plan to select and develop new single-use and multi-use hiking, equestrian, and OHV trails for all lands in the SRMA.

Land Use Allocation

San Domingo SRMA

Desired Future Condition

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

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

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

Management Actions

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

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

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

Administrative Actions

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

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

Land Use Allocation

Vulture Mine SRMA

Desired Future Condition

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

Emphasize and maintain the current roaded-natural and semi-primitive motorized recreation settings and associated opportunities.

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

Management Actions

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

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

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

Administrative Actions

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

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

Write a site management and interpretation plan for the Vulture City Cemetery.

Land Use Allocation

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

2.4.2.2.3.6 Wilderness Characteristics

Land Use Allocation

Within the Hassayampa Management Unit, 13,200 acres would be allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics as shown on Map 2-54.

Desired Future Condition

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

Manage for open space and generally natural landscapes. Emphasize a recreation setting of semi-primitive non-motorized.

Maintain availability of non-motorized recreation opportunities.

Management Actions

Close tertiary, primitive, reclaiming, single-track vehicle routes and washes to motorized use.

Retain access to the Fools Canyon OHV route between the Hassayampa River Canyon Wilderness and lands allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics.

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

Prohibit mineral material disposal and vegetation sales.

2.4.2.2.3.7 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

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

Within the Hassayampa Management Unit, allocate:

- Constellation Mine Road Back Country Byway to VRM Class II objectives ½ mile to either side of the road's centerline.
- Lands allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics to VRM Class I objectives.
- Wickenburg SRMA to VRM Class II objectives except areas with desired recreation settings of rural or roaded-natural and areas open to mineral development to VRM Class III objectives.
- San Domingo, Stanton, and Vulture Mine SRMAs to VRM Class III.
- Hassayampa River Canyon Wilderness to VRM Class I objectives.

- Utility corridors would be allocated to VRM Class III or IV.
- Areas not listed above would be allocated to VRM classes as portrayed on Map 2-36.

2.4.2.2.3.8 Mineral Resource Management

Management Actions

Close Vulture Mountains ACEC to mineral material disposal.

Close lands allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics to mineral material disposal.

Close and withdraw from mineral entry, mineral and geothermal leasing, and mineral material disposal an area within Wickenburg SRMA and around Box Canyon, to include the following sections:

- Township 8 North, Range 5 West, sections 12, 13, and 24.
- Township 8 North, Range 4 West, sections 7, 18, 19, 20, 29, and 30.

2.4.2.2.3.9 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

ACECs are discussed in the Special Area Designation Section 2.4.2.2.3.1.

SCRMA and cultural resource sites allocated to Public Use are discussed in Section 2.4.2.2.3.4.

SRMAs and other recreation allocations are discussed in Section 2.4.2.2.3.5.

Allocations to maintain wilderness characteristics are discussed in Section 2.4.2.2.3.6.

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. Until route designation is completed, all vehicle travel is restricted to inventoried routes as shown in chapter 3.

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

The Wickenburg SRMA would feature a system of high-quality equestrian trails surrounding Wickenburg. Transportation related prescriptions include:

- Locate and develop a non-motorized trailhead for the Red Top Trail System to meet the high demand for non-motorized recreation.
- Locate and develop an ATV and a motorcycle trail network in the Red Top Trail area. Use existing designated motorized vehicle routes, and, if necessary, create new routes less than 52 inches wide to meet the objective.
- Maintain and upgrade the Vulture Peak Trail by rerouting some trail segments.

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

The Vulture Mine SRMA would provide a Sonoran Desert landscape suitable for intensive motorized single and two-track routes for general motorized recreation use, commercial use, organized OHV events and competitive races. Locate a minimum of 20 miles of motorized single and two-track routes for competitive races to provide a unique array of

challenges for truck, buggy, ATV, and motorcycle competitive racing.

Close the Vulture Peak ACEC to road building.

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

Close tertiary, primitive, reclaiming, single-track vehicle routes and washes to motorized use on 13,200 acres allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics as shown on Map 2-49. Retain access to the Fools Canyon OHV route between the Hassayampa River Canyon Wilderness and lands allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics.

Consider construction of hard-surfaced walking trails at selected sites within the Wickenburg/Vulture SCRMA for interpretation, education, and visitation.

Implementation Actions

Write a comprehensive strategy and trails plan to select and to develop new single-use and multi-use hiking, equestrian, and OHV trails for all lands in the Wickenburg SRMA.

2.4.2.2.4 Harquahala Management Unit

Alternatives C, D, and E would slightly expand the Harquahala MU. The MU is bounded on the east by the Hassayampa MU and extends west to the Hassayampa Field Office boundary, near the town of Wenden. The MU's southern boundary includes the private and State land south to Interstate 10. The northern boundary follows BLM's property line south of US Route 60, which goes west of Wickenburg, through Aguila, and through Wenden (Map 2-50).

The Harquahala MU contains the following land:

- 420,730 acres of BLM-administered lands,
- 48,410 acres of Arizona State land, and
- 29,616 acres of private land.

Vision

The Harquahala Mountains are renowned for their cultural history, the quality and uniqueness of their biotic communities, and the diversity of their recreation opportunities. The mountain ranges in this MU (Harquahala, Big Horn, and Belmont Mountains) and the areas between them create a complex of wildlife habitats and wildlife movement corridors that the AGFD recognizes as priority management areas. The abundant recreation opportunities include:

- primitive experiences,
- designated hiking trails,
- a back country byway,
- backpacking,
- wildlife viewing,
- hunting,
- rock hounding,
- equestrian uses,
- cultural sightseeing, and
- OHV-driving opportunities.

The MU's scenic and natural landscapes are maintained while offering visitors a diverse array of recreation opportunities. Such opportunities within the MU include both motorized and non-motorized activities. At the same time, a priority is placed on maintaining, enhancing, and restoring natural, biological, and cultural resources.

2.4.2.2.4.1 Special Designations

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

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC (41,670 acres)

Relevance

The area constitutes a rare, intact, mountaintop vegetation community surrounded by low desert. The mountains contain a biologically diverse system, in stark contrast to the surrounding landscape, and support a diverse sky island ecosystem, with many species not found in the surrounding Sonoran Desert. The mountains are a natural and mainly roadless area with few noticeable human intrusions in a primitive landscape setting.

Importance

The ONA does the following:

- encloses and preserves a unique assemblage of biological resources,
- conserves significant cultural and historic sites, and
- protects a distinctive vegetation community.

The biological richness of the Harquahala Mountains is unique within southwest Arizona. The Harquahala Mountains and surrounding bajadas provide important wildlife habitat to a diverse array of wildlife species. The area is an ecoregional conservation site with important biodiversity values.

The ONA contains the Harquahala Mountain Observatory National Register of Historic Places district. Besides the observatory itself; the historic Harquahala Peak Pack Trail, Ellison's Camp, and other sites are also components of the historic district. The area also includes many well-preserved prehistoric sites and historic ranching and mining sites. Some archaeological sites may be related to the use of the mountain range by a regional group of the Western Yavapai Tribe.

The ONA will safeguard important and unfragmented wildlife habitat.

Desired Future Condition

The integrity of the vegetation communities, historical features, and prehistoric sites are protected from degradation. Unfragmented wildlife habitat provides adequate forage, cover, and access to water for healthy wildlife populations.

Management Actions

Prohibit the construction of new vehicle routes.

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

Protect spring sources by not allowing surface-disturbing activities.

Acquire all available state lands and private lands from willing sellers.

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

Prohibit building new recreation sites.

Prohibit livestock grazing during bighorn sheep lambing season (January 1 to April 1).

Undertake actions to protect important cultural resources. Maintain the Harquahala Observatory historical site and its interpretive facilities in their current condition.

Prohibit developing grazing improvements that would increase livestock use in Browns Canyon and the Inner Basin.

Administrative Actions

Undertake an inventory of cultural resources to identify and to evaluate sites, determine proper site uses, and develop and implement protection measures for cultural resources within the ACEC.

Black Butte ACEC (800 acres)***Relevance***

Biological resources including raptor nesting habitat and desert tortoise habitat.

Significant source of material for prehistoric tool production.

Importance

Important raptor nesting habitat in central Arizona.

The "Vulture" source of obsidian was a major source of obsidian for prehistoric groups.

Desired Future Condition

The raptor nesting habitat values of the cliffs and the surrounding foraging habitat are maintained.

The integrity of the archeological sites is protected from disturbance or degradation.

Management Actions

Do not permit mineral material disposal.

Prohibit building of new recreation sites.

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

Prohibit the creation of new motorized routes.

The "Vulture" obsidian source is a highly valued site within the ACEC. Prohibit actions that would threaten its integrity. Permit scientific study that advances local and regional archaeological knowledge if the integrity of the site is maintained.

Prohibit rock climbing to protect nesting raptors.

2.4.2.2.4.2 Lands and Realty**Land Tenure Adjustments**

Within the Harquahala MU, the two methods used to derive lands available for disposal generated no parcels by the first method and 8,210 acres by the second method. For a description of the methods used, see the Lands and Realty discussion at the beginning of the description of *Alternative C* for the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area. See lands that are suitable for disposal on Map 2-40.

Communication Sites

The Harquahala Peak communication site would be the only designated communication site within this MU. New communication sites will be authorized only at existing designated communication sites.

2.4.2.2.4.3 Biological Resources

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

Belmont/Big Horn Mountains Wildlife Habitat Area

Desired Future Condition

Maintain the wildlife and plant diversity and species richness of the Sonoran Desert scrub vegetation community. Maintain unfragmented wildlife habitat that provides adequate forage, cover, and access to water for healthy wildlife populations.

Management Actions

Prohibit building new fences.

Close, limit, or suitably mitigate motorized vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining wildlife habitat values to ensure achieving DFC.

Arizona State and private lands would be acquired from willing sellers when available.

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

Land Use Allocation

Harquahala/Belmont/Big Horn Wildlife Corridor

Desired Future Condition

Maintain the plant diversity and richness of the chaparral and Sonoran Desert scrub vegetation communities. Maintain unfragmented wildlife habitat that provides adequate forage, cover, and access to water for healthy wildlife populations.

Management Actions

Arizona State and private lands would be acquired from willing sellers when available.

Close, limit, or suitably mitigate motorized vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining wildlife habitat values to ensure achieving DFC.

Design all future improvements to motorized vehicle routes to ensure wildlife habitat is not fragmented and wildlife movement is unimpeded, especially for desert bighorn sheep and desert tortoise.

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

2.4.2.2.4.4 Cultural Resources

Land Use Allocation

Harquahala Mountains SCRMA

Desired Future Condition

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

Management Actions

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

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

Stabilize, repair, and maintain sites in good condition.

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

Administrative Actions

Select sites for public use by considering the following factors:

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

- partnership opportunities for interpretive and educational projects.

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

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

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

2.4.2.2.4.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

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

Implementation Actions

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

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

Development may include the following:

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

Limit to 15 acres the area of exposed barren soil. Mark or delineate the perimeter with barriers to prevent expansion.

In the area near Black Mountain, BLM may designate and build as many as three loop or one-way trails for ATVs and motorcycles, with total mileage not to exceed 20 miles. These trails would be adjacent to areas managed to maintain wilderness characteristics.

2.4.2.2.4.6 Wilderness Characteristics

Land Use Allocation

Within the Harquahala Management Unit, 70,350 acres would be allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics as shown on Map 2-54.

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

Desired Future Condition

Maintain current natural conditions and open space values. Expand the availability of non-motorized trails for hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers. Emphasize non-motorized recreation. Increase availability of non-motorized recreation opportunities where practical.

Manage for recreation settings of semi-primitive non-motorized and semi-primitive motorized, with an emphasis on the following:

- maintaining land areas for primitive recreation,
- practicing backcountry skills,
- attaining isolation from other users, and
- maintaining remoteness.

Management Actions

Close tertiary, primitive, reclaimed, and single-track vehicle routes, and washes except routes providing access to functioning and maintained facilities, waters, or other authorized uses. Retain the main transportation and travel network for continued use.

Motorized competitive races would not be permitted.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in Section 2.4.2.2.4.7.

Prohibit mineral material disposals and vegetation sales.

Locate and develop as many as three hiking, equestrian, and bicycle trails, with total mileage not to exceed 10 miles.

Close the raptor protection area and Vulture obsidian area to vehicular travel.

Administrative Actions

Conduct a detailed inventory of current disturbances to provide a baseline for establishing detailed standards and setting trigger-points for management actions so that each recreation setting will not exceed proper levels of recreation disturbance.

2.4.2.2.4.7 Visual Resources***Land Use Allocations***

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

Within the Harquahala Management Unit, allocate:

- Harquahala Mountains ACEC and lands allocated to maintain wilderness

characteristics to VRM Class II objectives.

- Utility corridors would be allocated to VRM Class III or IV.
- The rest of the Management Unit would be allocated as portrayed on Map 2-36.

2.4.2.2.4.8 Mineral Resource Management***Management Actions***

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

Close Black Butte ACEC and lands allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics to mineral material disposal.

2.4.2.2.4.9 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

ACECs are discussed in the Special Area Designation Section 2.4.2.2.4.1.

WHAs are discussed in the Biological Resources Section 2.4.2.2.4.3.

SCRMA and cultural resource sites allocated to Public Use are discussed in Section 2.5.2.2.4.4.

SRMAs and other recreation allocations are discussed in Section 2.4.2.2.4.5.

Allocations to maintain wilderness characteristics are discussed in Section 2.4.2.2.4.6.

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. Until route designation is completed, all vehicle travel is restricted to inventoried routes as shown in chapter 3.

Close tertiary, primitive, reclaiming, and single-track vehicle routes, and washes except routes providing access to active and maintained facilities, waters, or other authorized uses on 63,400 acres allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics as shown on Map 2-50. Locate and develop as many as three hiking, equestrian, and bicycle trails, with total mileage not to exceed 10 miles. Close to motorized vehicle travel the raptor protection and Vulture obsidian areas within lands allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics.

Close, limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes within the Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC (70,350 acres) that conflict with maintaining wildlife habitat and cultural resources.

Close all routes within the Black Butte ACEC. Close, limit, or suitably mitigate other vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining wildlife habitat and cultural resources to achieve the DFC. Prohibit building new roads and motorized routes.

Close, limit, or suitably mitigate motorized vehicle routes within the Belmont/Big Horn Mountains WHA that conflict with maintaining wildlife habitat values to ensure achieving DFC.

Consider construction of hard-surfaced walking trails at selected sites within the Harquahala Mountains SCRMA for interpretation, education, and visitation.

2.4.2.2.5 Harcuvar Management Unit

The Harcuvar MU encompasses the easternmost end of the Harcuvar Mountains within the PD's administrative area. Most of the Harcuvar Mountain range is administered by the Lake Havasu Field Office. The Harcuvar MU is bounded on the west and north by the PD boundary with the Lake Havasu Field Office, and on the east and south by the boundary between BLM- and non-BLM-administered lands (Map 2-51).

The Harcuvar MU contains the following lands:

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

2.4.2.2.5.1 Special Designations

Alternative C would propose no new Special Designations within the Harcuvar MU.

2.4.2.2.5.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

No lands have been identified for disposal within this MU.

Communication Sites

No designated communication sites are within this MU.

2.4.2.2.5.3 Biological Resources

No allocations would be made for biological resources within Harcuvar 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 section of this chapter and in section 2.7.3.4 - Biological

Resources in the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area.

2.4.2.2.5.4 Cultural Resources

No cultural resources would be allocated to public use within this MU.

2.4.2.2.5.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

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

2.4.2.2.5.6 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

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

Within the Harcuvar Management Unit:

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

2.4.2.2.5.7 Mineral Resource Management

This MU would have no mineral withdrawals or closures.

2.4.2.2.5.8 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).

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. Until route designation is completed, all vehicle travel is restricted to inventoried routes as shown in chapter 3.

2.4.2.2.6 Upper Agua Fria River Basin Management Unit

The Upper Agua Fria River Basin MU is sandwiched between the Bradshaw Mountains Ranger District and the Verde Ranger District of the Prescott National Forest. It stretches from Cordes Lakes in the south to the Town of Prescott Valley in the north (Map 2-52).

The Upper Agua Fria River Basin MU contains the following lands:

- 21,520 acres of BLM-administered lands,
- 36,990 acres of Arizona State land, and
- 39,290 acres of private land.

Vision

Citizens take an active role in guiding management of public lands in the Management Unit. A citizen working group, in partnership with government agencies, exists to determine appropriate uses of lands and find ways to achieve community goals. Strong citizen stewardship and land use ethics help to preserve health, diversity, and productivity of the remaining natural landscapes in the area. The MU's natural landscape and open space is maintained. Visitors to public lands can find recreation opportunities, scenic community backdrops, and access to the Black Canyon Trail.

2.4.2.2.6.1 Special Designations

Alternative C proposes no Special Designations for the Upper Agua Fria River Basin MU.

2.4.2.2.6.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

Within this MU, the two methods used to determine lands available for disposal generated no parcels by the first method and 1,430 acres by the second method. For a description of the methods used, see the Lands and Realty discussion at the beginning of the description of *Alternative C*, for the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area. See the lands that are suitable for disposal on Map 2-40.

Communication Sites

There would be no designated communication sites within this MU.

2.4.2.2.6.3 Biological Resources

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

Upper Agua Fria River Basin Habitat Corridor Wildlife Habitat Area

Desired Future Condition

Maintain and enhance existing wildlife habitat and ensure unimpeded wildlife movement between BLM-managed Federal lands and adjacent National Forest lands.

Management Actions

Prohibit construction of new vehicle routes and fences.

Close, limit, or suitably mitigate motorized vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining

wildlife habitat values to ensure achieving the DFC.

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

2.4.2.2.6.4 Cultural Resources

No cultural resources would be allocated to public use within this MU.

2.4.2.2.6.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

Upper Agua Fria River Basin SRMA

Desired Future Condition

Maintain the SRMA's natural landscape and open space. Offer visitors recreation opportunities, scenic community backdrops, and access to the Black Canyon Trail.

Maintaining or increasing the amount of land allocated to open space is one of the most effective ways to preserve existing natural values and recreation opportunities; and to extend new or increased levels of recreation activity in the future.

Emphasize semi-primitive motorized settings with roaded-natural along primary routes.

Management Actions

Establish new trails, parking, and staging areas, where suitable, for hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers, ATVs, and four-wheel-drive enthusiasts.

Complete the non-motorized Black Canyon Trail and develop up to three trailheads or access points for trail users.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in Section 2.4.2.2.6.6.

Administrative Actions

Work with citizen volunteer groups to complete a comprehensive strategy and a trails plan to select and to develop new single-use and multi-use hiking, equestrian, and OHV trails for all lands in the SRMA. Collaborate with the AGFD, Prescott National Forest, Yavapai County, and land managers of other trails to link trails to trails on BLM's land.

Land Use Allocation

The remaining BLM's lands outside any Management Unit would be allocated as an Extensive Recreation Management Area.

2.4.2.2.6.6 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for Alternative C throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-36. The entire Upper Agua Fria River Basin Management Unit would be allocated to VRM Class III objectives.

2.4.2.2.6.7 Mineral Resource Management

Alternative C proposes no mineral withdrawals or closures for the Upper Agua Fria River Basin MU.

2.4.2.2.6.8 Travel Management

Land Use Allocation

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

Other Resource Allocations with Travel Management Prescriptions

Wildlife Habitat Areas are discussed in the Biological Resources Section 2.4.2.2.6.3.

SRMAs and other recreation allocations are discussed in Section 2.4.2.2.6.5.

Management Actions

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. Until route designation is completed, all vehicle travel is restricted to inventoried routes as shown in chapter 3.

Establish new trails, where suitable, for hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers, ATVs, and four-wheel-drive enthusiasts.

Complete the non-motorized Black Canyon Trail and develop up to three trailheads or access points for trail users.

Prohibit construction of new vehicle routes. Close, limit, or suitably mitigate motorized vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining wildlife habitat values to ensure achieving the DFC.

2.4.2.2.7 Resource Allocations Not Within a Management Unit

2.4.2.2.7.1 Biological Resources

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

Date Creek Mountains Wildlife Habitat Area
(Map 2-53)

Desired Future Condition

Maintain the wildlife/plant diversity and richness of the Sonoran Desert scrub vegetation community. Maintain unfragmented wildlife habitat that provides adequate forage, cover, and access to water for healthy wildlife populations.

Management Actions

High-quality desert tortoise habitat would become a priority for land acquisition.

Prohibit building new vehicle routes and fences.

Close, limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes that conflict with maintenance of wildlife habitat values to ensure achieving the DFC.

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

2.4.2.2.7.2 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

Skull Valley SRMA (Map 2-53)

Desired Future Condition

Maintain the SRMA's landscape character while maintaining access to routes in the Prescott National Forest.

Management Actions

Transfer management of the SRMA to the adjacent Prescott National Forest.

2.4.2.2.7.3 Travel Management

Land Use Allocation

These lands would be allocated as limited use areas, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes.

Other Resource Allocations with Travel Management Prescriptions

Wildlife Habitat Areas are discussed in the Biological Resources Section 2.4.2.2.7.1.

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. Until route designation is completed, all vehicle travel is restricted to inventoried routes as shown in chapter 3.

Prohibit construction of new vehicle routes. Close, limit, or suitably mitigate motorized vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining wildlife habitat values to ensure achieving the DFC.

2.5 Alternative D

The following discussion, along with the Desired Future Conditions, land use allocations, and management actions described in the Management Common to All Action Alternatives section of Chapter 2, comprise the total proposed *Alternative D*.

2.5.1 Agua Fria National Monument

Alternative D places the strongest emphasis on protecting natural landscapes and cultural resources by limiting land uses in Agua Fria National Monument. Management would limit motorized use in the monument and

close more areas to vehicles than under the other Alternatives. To preserve natural landscapes, access would be limited; Back Country RMZ would encompass most of the monument.

Alternative D would allocate most cultural resources for limited public use and areas would be developed for intensive public use. Within the monument, grazing would not be authorized on public lands also; larger areas will be managed for more primitive recreation experiences and wilderness character.

2.5.1.1 Special Designations

Alternative D would designate one ACEC, the Agua Fria River Riparian Corridor (Map 2-56), to preserve the monument's riparian resources, and would study potential additions to the existing proposed wild and scenic river designation. This Alternative would maximize primitive and semi-primitive recreation opportunities, and emphasize non-motorized activities in backcountry settings. The management actions provide for protecting monument resources and incorporating the citizen proposal for wilderness characteristics within the monument.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Removes designation of the existing Perry Mesa and Larry Canyon ACECs because the monument's proclamation (Appendix A) provides for a higher level of protection than the ACECs and creates management across a more extensive landscape.

Designate the following ACEC:

Agua Fria River Riparian Corridor ACEC (13,070 acres)

Relevance

Nearly intact riparian network within a desert/semi-desert grassland transition zone.

Importance

Habitat supports many special status wildlife species, including endangered fish. Special values for studies of a desert riparian system.

Desired Future Condition

Riparian areas are in proper functioning condition and provide high-quality habitat for a diversity of wildlife species, including fish.

The integrity of riparian areas and wildlife habitat are maintained and protected from degradation.

Management Actions

Close, limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining riparian and wildlife values to ensure achieving the DFC.

Designate the lands along Indian Creek as a priority for acquisition.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Study tributaries to the Agua Fria River to determine eligibility for WSR designation (Map 2-56).

Back Country Byways

Alternative D proposes no back country byways.

2.5.1.2 Lands and Realty

Utility and Transportation Corridors

Eliminate the Black Canyon utility corridor from the monument. Continue to honor all existing rights-of-way and prior rights.

2.5.1.3 Biological Resources

Alternative D would allocate two Wildlife Habitat Areas and designate one ACEC for managing biological resources within Agua Fria National Monument. *Alternative D* would drop Larry Canyon ACEC because the monument's

proclamation (Appendix A) provides for a higher level of protection than an ACEC and management across a more extensive landscape.

The actions for the ACECs are described in the Special Area Designations section and shown on Map 2-56. The management actions for the WHAs, also shown on Map 2-57, are outlined below.

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 Movement Corridor Wildlife Habitat Area.

Pronghorn Fawning Habitat Wildlife Habitat Area.

Desired Future Condition

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

Management Actions

To assure achieving the DFC, close or suitably mitigate vehicle routes that may:

- cross known pronghorn movement corridors and
- have a type and a volume of use which modify pronghorn behavior in ways that fragment their habitat.

Continue to use prescribed fire to improve pronghorn habitat.

Develop no new recreation sites in pronghorn movement corridors and fawning.

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

Since *Alternative D* proposes ending livestock grazing, remove all fences, and authorize no new ones.

2.5.1.4 Cultural Resources

<i>Level of Public Use</i>	<i>Locations/Site</i>
<i>High</i>	<i>No areas of the monument</i>
<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Pueblo la Plata and Fort Silver (Pueblo la Plata Complex) on Perry Mesa</i>
<i>Low</i>	<i>Public use of archaeological sites would be limited in all other areas not described above</i>

Alternative D would minimally increase public access to cultural sites. Interpretive development and educational activities would be focused on the Pueblo la Plata area (Map 2-58). This area would be allocated to a public use SCRMA as shown in Table 2-5.

Descriptions of potential improvements and activities within special cultural resource management areas are described in the Cultural Resources description of the Management Common to Agua Fria National Monument section of Chapter 2. High use represents the most intensive degree of interpretive development, and Moderate use involves less intensive development of access and interpretive facilities. All areas of the monument not shown as a Moderate use SCRMA on Map 2-58 are considered as areas of low public use that would not be available for on-the-ground interpretive development or commercial tours.

2.5.1.5 Recreation Resources

In *Alternative D*, the entire monument would be allocated to a Special Recreation Management Area with three Recreation Management Zones within it. These zones would include a Back Country RMZ of 68,380 acres to manage and maintain the natural landscape character in the Agua Fria River Canyon, tributaries, washes, and adjacent mesas (Map 2-58). A Passage RMZ of 990 acres along designated vehicle routes would pass through or provide access into the Back Country RMZ. The rest of the monument would be designated a Front Country RMZ (1,530 acres), where more focus would be placed on recreation and interpretive opportunities. Descriptions of these zones and Desired Future Conditions and management actions that apply to all Alternatives can be found in the Recreation and Public Access discussion of the Management Common to Agua Fria National Monument section of Chapter 2.

Land Use Allocation

Front Country Recreation Management Zone of 1,530 acres

Desired Future Condition

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

Management Actions

VRM Allocations to achieve the Desired Future Conditions of this Recreation Management Zone are described in Section 2.5.1.6.

Throughout the monument, recreation concession leases, vendor permits, and Special Recreation Permits would not be authorized.

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.

No developed campgrounds.

Campfires:

- Prohibit campfires within ¼ mile of intensive and moderate public-use archaeological sites.
- Prohibit campfires at archaeological sites, including petroglyph (rock art) sites.
- Allow campfires at designated campsites.
- Prohibit collection of woody material for campfires. Require campfire wood to be brought in from outside the monument.

Recreational target shooting would be prohibited.

Trail Construction for Non-motorized Recreation Use:

Discussion of recreation trail development can be found in the Travel Management Section 2.5.1.8.

Land Use Allocation

Back Country Recreation Management Zone of 68,380 acres

Desired Future Condition

The natural landscape of the Agua Fria River Canyon, tributaries, and washes (Map 2-58) is maintained. See Desired Future Condition description in Section 2.7.2.7 of the

Management Common to Agua Fria National Monument section of this chapter.

Management Actions

VRM Allocations to achieve the Desired Future Conditions of this Recreation Management Zone are described in Section 2.5.1.6.

Retain the motorized river crossings at Kelton Ranch, EZ Ranch, Horseshoe Ranch, and Cross Y Ranch.

Throughout the monument, provide no recreation concession leases, issue no vendor permits, and authorize no Special Recreation Permits.

Dispersed Camping:

- require a permit and
- limit camping to designated sites only.

No developed campgrounds.

Campfires would be prohibited.

Recreational target shooting would be prohibited.

Trail Construction for Non-motorized Recreation Use:

Discussion of recreation trail development can be found in the Travel Management Section 2.5.1.8.

Land Use Allocation

Passage Recreation Management Zone of 990 acres.

Desired Future Condition

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

Management Actions

VRM Allocations to achieve the Desired Future Conditions of this Recreation Management Zone are described in Section 2.5.1.6.

Throughout the monument, provide no recreation concession leases, issue no vendor permits, and authorize no Special Recreation Permits.

Dispersed Camping:

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

No developed campgrounds.

Campfires:

- Prohibit campfires within ¼ mile of intensive and moderate public-use archaeological sites.
- Prohibit campfires at archaeological sites, including petroglyph (rock art) sites.

- Allow campfires at designated campsites.
- Allow no collection of woody material for campfires. Require that any wood for campfires be brought in from outside the national monument.

Recreational target shooting would be prohibited.

Trail Construction for Non-motorized Recreation Use:

Discussion of recreation trail development can be found in the Travel Management Section 2.5.1.8.

Administrative Actions

Collect site-specific baseline data to (1) determine social and resource impacts of recreation uses, (2) to establish monitoring needs and frequencies, and (3) to detect change. Where monument resources are unacceptably affected, implement more management actions, ranging from further restrictions to closure.

2.5.1.6 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative D* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-59. Within the monument, the Front Country RMZ, totaling 1,530 acres, would be allocated to VRM Class III objectives and the Back Country and Passage RMZs would be allocated to VRM Class II.

2.5.1.7 Rangeland Management

Land Use Allocation

Make allotments unavailable for livestock grazing and cancel all current grazing authorizations.

Desired Future Condition

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

Maintain ecological processes to support healthy biotic populations and communities.

No grazing authorizations would be administered within Agua Fria National Monument. The removal of all livestock would result in the rapid achievement of the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health (Land Health Standards).

Management Actions

Build fencing around grazed lands to control livestock incursions.

Remove range-related improvements on public lands that serve no purpose for other resources. This removal would reduce the visual impact of former grazing operations.

2.5.1.8 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.

Within Front Country

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

- Develop trails as needed to enhance resources and recreation experiences and to protect monument values.
- All construction would be compatible with Desired Future Conditions for the construction area.
- Make trail development a priority at archaeological sites developed for interpretive use and visitation.
- Consider other trails to enhance visitor access and enjoyment of monument resources. Such trails might include self-guided nature and cultural resource trails, trails to interpreted sites, or longer trails linking multiple sites for day or multiple day trips.
- Use packed soil, crushed stone, and other natural or synthetic materials.
- Design trails to fit the environment.
- Build loop, connector, and linear trails, depending on the established trail and resource objectives.
- Build trails to maintain connectivity to recreation opportunities, such as hunting, equestrian activities, hiking, and viewing cultural sites.
- Build trails to link with other connector trails beyond the monument's border.
- Where trail linkages conform to monument values and do not impair protection of monument resources, explore opportunities to link the monument's network of non-motorized trails to trails on other BLM-managed lands, or with other adjoining jurisdictions, including Tonto and Prescott National Forests, Yavapai County, and local communities.
- 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:

- Evaluate new motorized vehicle routes on a case-by-case basis, with determinations based on protecting and enhancing monument values.

- Enhance existing routes north of Bloody Basin Road to provide greater motorized recreation opportunities.
- 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 Travel Management Section 2.7.2.10.
- Manage OHV access to provide for a variety of use experiences, including access for public visitation of cultural and biological resources.

Within Back Country

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

- No new trails would be built in the Back Country RMZ except to mitigate resource conflicts or concerns. Trail construction would use the least intrusive method to mitigate the conflict. A trail might simply be marked with fiberglass posts.

Route Construction for Motorized Use:

- Build no new routes within the Back Country RMZ.

Off-Highway Vehicles:

- Manage the Back Country RMZ as a non-motorized area. All vehicles are restricted to passage zones.

Within Passage

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

- Develop trails as needed to enhance resources and recreation experiences and to protect monument values.
- 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:

- Motorized route construction would be considered only as mitigation for resource conflicts.
- 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 Travel Management Section 2.7.2.10.
- Manage OHV access to provide for a variety of use experiences, including viewing of scenic, cultural and biological resources.

Implementation Actions

Public Access

An evaluation process was used to establish a designated public access and route system to support resource objectives consistent with *Alternative D* and to protect monument resources. The results of the evaluation are shown in Map 2-60. A summary of route status and length under *Alternative D* is shown below.

Routes Open	48 miles
Routes Closed	123 miles
New Routes	0 miles

2.5.1.9 Wilderness Characteristics

Land Use Allocation

Within the monument, 37,571 acres would be allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics as shown on Map 2-71.

Desired Future Condition

In addition to the DFC and management actions in the Wilderness Characteristics discussion of the Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of this chapter, the following DFC also applies:

Lands within the monument allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics contain outstanding opportunities for solitude and naturalness. Maintain these characteristics and provide opportunities for unconfined primitive recreation, adventure, and discovery. Important wildlife populations and habitat are also within these lands and recognized as an important component of the naturalness and actively managed.

Management Actions

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in Section 2.5.1.6.

Authorize no new rights-of-way.

2.5.2 Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area

Alternative D emphasizes natural landscapes and non-motorized recreation, allowing visitors to experience more areas in their natural setting. *Alternative D* would provide more areas for non-motorized use than the other Alternatives and close more areas to vehicles, mining, and grazing. More management is dedicated to maintaining primitive recreation opportunities. The MUs for *Alternative D*, are shown in Map 2-61.

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

2.5.2.1.1 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

Land tenure decisions determine which lands will be retained and which will be proposed for disposal or acquisition. Land tenure decisions must achieve the goals, standards, and objectives outlined in the land use plan.

No lands have been found to be potentially suitable for disposal under *Alternative D*. If *Alternative D* were chosen, any proposed land disposal, including the disposal of scattered lands outside the planning area, would require a plan amendment.

Lands considered for potential acquisition would include State and private lands (willing seller) within the planning area that are in accordance with the resource management prescriptions in this RMP. Lands considered for acquisition must meet (1) the criteria described in the Lands and Realty discussion of the Management Common to Both Planning Areas section of Chapter 2 and (2) the resource program objectives of *Alternative D*.

Utility and Transportation Corridors

Currently designated corridors (Map 2-62) would meet the demand for intensifying the power grid, provided consistently with the utility regulations of the Arizona Corporation Commission. The Black Canyon's multi-use corridor would be eliminated from Agua Fria National Monument. (See the Utility and Transportation Corridor discussion in the Lands and Realty section of *Alternative D*, Agua Fria National Monument).

2.5.2.1.2 Rangeland Management

Land Use Allocation

Make all livestock allotments unavailable for grazing and cancel current livestock authorizations.

Desired Future Condition

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

Maintain ecological processes to support healthy biotic populations and communities.

Management Actions

Build fencing around grazed lands to control livestock incursions.

Remove public land range-related improvements that serve no purpose for managing other resources.

Require cadastral surveys to establish the location of the public lands and delineate property boundaries to properly locate boundary fencing and to enforce the closure.

2.5.2.1.3 Mineral Resources Management

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

Management Actions

Leasable Minerals

The following limitations to leasable minerals are shown on Map 2-63.

Close any reconveyed lands to mineral and geothermal leasing by public land order.

Close the following areas to mineral and geothermal leasing:

- Black Mesa ACEC,
- Tule Creek ACEC,
- Baldy Mountain ONA ACEC,
- Sheep Mountain RNA ACEC,
- Vulture Mountains ACEC,
- Belmont-Big Horn Mountains ACEC,
- Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC ,
- Black Butte ONA ACEC, and
- Lands allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics.

All other lands would be open to mineral and geothermal leasing.

Saleable Minerals (Mineral Materials)

The following limitations to saleable minerals are shown on Map 2-64.

Close any reconveyed lands to mineral material disposal by public land order.

Close the following areas to mineral material disposal:

- Black Mesa ACEC,
- Tule Creek ACEC,
- Baldy Mountain ONA ACEC,
- Sheep Mountain RNA ACEC,
- Vulture Mountains ACEC,
- Belmont-Big Horn Mountains ACEC,
- Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC,
- Black Butte ONA ACEC, and
- Lands allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics.

All other lands would be open to mineral material disposal.

Locatable Minerals

The following limitations to locatable minerals are shown on Map 2-65.

Withdraw any reconveyed lands from the mining laws by public land order.

Withdraw the following areas from the mining laws:

- Black Mesa ACEC,
- Tule Creek ACEC,
- Baldy Mountain ONA ACEC,
- Sheep Mountain RNA ACEC,
- Vulture Mountains ACEC,
- Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC,
- Black Butte ONA ACEC, and
- Lands allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics.

Small tract lands would remain withdrawn from the mining laws.

Withdraw from the mining laws all public lands (including subsurface) within incorporated municipal boundaries.

Unless currently segregated or withdrawn, all remaining lands would remain open under the mining laws.

2.5.2.1.4 Travel Management

Land Use Allocation

All public lands within the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area would be allocated as limited use areas, with motorized and mechanized vehicle uses limited to designated routes and mechanized uses.

Desired Future Conditions

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

Management Actions

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. Until route designation is completed, all vehicle travel is restricted to inventoried routes as shown in chapter 3.

Administrative Actions

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

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

2.5.2.2 Management Units

Alternative D would use seven MUs for presenting land use allocations and management actions. These MUs are summarized in the following text. As noted, areas within the MUs that do not receive specific land use allocations would be administered according to the DFC and management actions presented under Management Units and in the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area section of Chapter 2.

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

- Black Canyon MU, Section 2.5.2.2.1, Map 2-47.
- Castle Hot Springs MU, Section 2.5.2.2.2, Map 2-66.
- Hassayampa MU, Section 2.5.2.2.3, Map 2-67.

- Harquahala MU, Section 2.5.2.2.4, Map 2-68.
- Harcuvar MU, Section 2.5.2.2.5, Map 2-51.
- Peeples Valley MU, Section 2.5.2.2.6, Map 2-69.
- Upper Agua Fria Basin MU, Section 2.5.2.2.7, Map 2-70.

2.5.2.2.1 Black Canyon Management Unit

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

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

2.5.2.2.1.1 Special Designations

Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Black Mesa ACEC (5,540 acres)

Relevance

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

Importance

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

Management Actions

Install fences or barriers to keep livestock out of the Running Deer site.

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

Implement measures to protect cultural sites.

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

Close all routes that lead directly to significant sites.

Administrative Actions

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

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

Nomination to National Recreation Trail System**Black Canyon Trail*****Desired Future Condition***

Provide for sustainable use of the trail network. An ever-increasing urban population will seek out the trail for various recreation benefits and outcomes. Promote the preservation of the scenery, public access to the trail, safe travel on the trail, appreciation and enjoyment of the open space, and historic resources of the Black Canyon corridor. A National Recreation Trail should be established primarily within urban areas, secondarily, within scenic areas, and along historic travel routes of the areas.

Management Actions

Evaluate the Black Canyon Trail for inclusion into the National Recreation Trail System, as described in the National Trails System Act of 2002 (P.L.90-543).

Issue a right-of-way agreement for the trail and facilities to preserve their access and long-term character.

Acquire easements, rights-of-way, or both on non-Federal lands where the trail or facilities must cross or be built.

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

2.5.2.2.1.2 Lands and Realty**Land Tenure Adjustments**

Alternative D proposes no land tenure adjustments within the Black Canyon MU because no lands have been proposed for disposal or acquisition.

Communication Sites

Only one designated communication site is located within this MU. Retain the Black Canyon City communication site, subject to valid existing rights.

Utility and Transportation Corridors

Extend the Black Canyon multi-use corridor so that the corridor is continuous north and south across BLM's lands within this MU.

2.5.2.2.1.3 Biological Resources

No biological resource allocations would be made within this 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 section of this chapter and in Section 2.7.3.4 - Biological Resources in the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area.

2.5.2.2.1.4 Cultural Resources

Land Use Allocation

Black Canyon Corridor SCRMA

Desired Future Condition

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

Management Actions

Implement a combination of some or all of following or other actions at selected sites:

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

Stabilize, repair, and maintain sites.

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

Administrative Actions

Select sites for public use by considering the following factors:

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

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

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

2.5.2.2.1.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

Table Mesa SRMA

Desired Future Condition

Promote a semi-primitive motorized setting. Recreational pursuits would impinge minimally on others in the area. Provide open space where users can learn and appreciate the natural environment while enjoying social contacts or developing new skills. Assure easy access to BLM lands. Provide a natural gateway into Maricopa County.

Management Actions

Manage for intensive camping, OHV use, equestrian activities, and casual use mining. The

SRMA would offer a diverse network of motorized single and two-track routes for general motorized recreation use, commercial use, and organized OHV events. Emphasize acceptable dust control and compatibility with neighboring communities and landowners.

Emphasize semi-primitive motorized recreation settings. Concentrate users in some areas but emphasize dispersed use.

Develop some facilities and promote preserving the natural environment. Develop the fewest sites needed to accomplish resource management objectives.

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

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

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

Limit to 10 acres the area of exposed barren soil.

Prohibit motorized competitive races.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in Section 2.5.2.2.1.7.

Administrative Actions

Conduct an objective, systematic, and comprehensive site inventory of the SRMA to determine existing site-specific environmental and social impacts of prospecting clubs, OHVs, equestrian activities, and other recreation uses. Assessments would determine site-specific desired conditions and define standards so monitoring plans could be developed to manage camping and other recreation uses.

Land Use Allocation

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

2.5.2.2.1.6 Wilderness Characteristics

Land Use Allocation

Within the Black Canyon Management Unit, 14,880 acres would be allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics as shown on Map 2-71.

Desired Future Condition

Promote non-motorized and primitive recreation experiences, with open space and natural landscapes. Retain undeveloped landscapes and the area's remote character. Preserve the area's outstanding solitude and primitive recreation experiences.

Management Actions

Close all secondary, tertiary, reclaiming, and single-track vehicle routes and washes to maintain recreation settings and associated landscapes of semi-primitive non-motorized.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in Section 2.5.2.2.1.7.

Manage the Black Canyon Trail alignment as a non-motorized trail.

Locate and develop non-motorized trails to link with community trail systems.

Withdraw from mineral location.

Prohibit mineral material disposals and vegetation sales.

Administrative Actions

Conduct a detailed baseline inventory of disturbances. Determine detailed and site-specific standards using this baseline to maintain suitable levels of recreation disturbance to achieve the desired future settings.

2.5.2.2.1.7 Visual Resources***Land Use Allocations***

VRM classes for *Alternative D* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-59.

Within the Black Canyon Management Unit, allocate:

- Table Mesa SRMA to VRM Class III objectives.
- Lands allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics to VRM Class I objectives.
- Utility corridors would be allocated to VRM Class III or IV.
- Throughout the rest of the Management Unit, VRM classes would be allocated as portrayed on Map 2-59.

2.5.2.2.1.8 Mineral Resource Management***Management Actions***

Withdraw Black Mesa ACEC from mineral entry, close to mineral and geothermal leasing, and close to mineral material disposal.

Withdraw lands allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics from mineral entry and close to mineral material disposal.

2.5.2.2.1.9 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

ACECs are discussed in Section 2.5.2.2.1.1.

SCRMA and cultural resource sites allocated to Public Use are discussed in Section 2.5.2.2.1.4.

SRMAs and other recreation allocations are discussed in Section 2.5.2.2.1.5.

Allocations to maintain wilderness characteristics are discussed in Section 2.5.2.2.1.6.

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. Until route designation is completed, all vehicle travel is restricted to inventoried routes as shown in chapter 3.

Close all secondary, tertiary, reclaiming, and single-track vehicle routes and washes on 14,880 acres allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics as shown on Map 2-47.

Manage the Black Canyon Trail alignment as a non-motorized trail. Locate and develop non-motorized trails to link with community trail systems.

Establish the Table Mesa SRMA, as allocated in the Recreation section of this plan, and manage for a diverse network of motorized single and two-track routes for general motorized recreation use, commercial use, and organized OHV events. Designate vehicle routes within this SRMA for general motorized recreation use, commercial use, and organized OHV events.

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

Consider construction of hard-surfaced walking trails at selected cultural sites within the Black Canyon Corridor SCRMA for interpretation, education, and visitation of prehistoric and historic sites.

2.5.2.2.2 Castle Hot Springs Management Unit

The Castle Hot Springs MU is bounded by State Route 74 (the Carefree Highway) to the south, Prescott National Forest to the north, Black Canyon MU to the east, and Hassayampa MU to the west (Map 2-66).

The Castle Hot Springs MU contains the following lands:

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

Vision

During the scoping phase of this plan where BLM emphasized collaborative planning, a diverse group of interested citizens including: private landowners, OHV recreationists, several hiking clubs, and conservationists, and others saw the need to address issues in this area and formed into the Bradshaw Foothills Coalition. This is the area where the public plays on their OHVs, an area where private landowner concerns increased due to recreation activities and the lack of respect to private property, and an area bordered by the Lake Pleasant Regional Park and Hell's Canyon Wilderness where conflicting uses emerged.

This group is engaged in a collective effort to conserve the ecological, cultural, open space, and recreation values of the MU, so that it remains a place where people want to live, work, and recreate. Strong citizen stewardship and land use ethics help to preserve health, diversity, and productivity of the natural landscapes in the area. The values of open space and scenic and visual quality are emphasized. Recreational, cultural, and biological assets are maintained.

The MU's scenic and natural landscape settings are maintained while offering visitors a diverse array of recreation opportunities, including both human-powered and motorized-based activities. The following principles are emphasized:

- maintaining the rural and natural setting,
- protecting visual resources,
- allowing responsible recreation use in suitable areas,
- protecting natural and cultural resources, and
- recognizing and protecting private property rights.

A healthy, properly functioning, and natural-appearing landscape is preserved. Multiple uses that conform to and support the overall community vision continue.

A system of OHV and hiking trails exist that afford a multitude of opportunities for mountain bike, four-wheel drive, ATV, and motorcycle enthusiasts.

2.5.2.2.2.1 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 of this chapter.

Tule Creek ACEC (640 acres)***Relevance***

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

Importance

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

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

Desired Future Condition

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

Management Actions

Close the ACEC to motor vehicles.

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

Administrative Decision

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

Baldy Mountain ONA ACEC (9,080 acres)***Relevance***

The area is characterized by highly scenic natural Sonoran Desert landscapes, primitive recreation and solitude opportunities, and desert washes without motorized use. It includes occupied desert tortoise habitat and is part of a wild burro HMA.

Importance

A quiet and natural landscape with little evidence of human disturbance. Scarce but accessible backcountry primitive recreation experiences for Phoenix and Peoria residents.

A portion of the area is within the city limits of the City of Peoria, a rapidly growing urban area.

Maintains wildlife and burro habitat and open space in a rapidly expanding, urban environment.

Desired Future Condition

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

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

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

Management Actions

Close all secondary, tertiary, primitive, single-track, washes, and reclaiming vehicle routes.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in Section 2.5.2.2.2.6.

Designate and build non-motorized trails to link with other non-motorized trails in the area.

Build non-motorized trails with up to three trailheads, offering loop hikes, connection to other trails.

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

Prohibit establishing new rights-of-way.

Prohibit vegetation sales.

Sheep Mountain RNA ACEC (4,270 acres)

Relevance

Open space and biological resources, including desert tortoise habitat and potential desert bighorn sheep habitat.

Importance

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

Desired Future Condition

Maintain semi-primitive non-motorized recreation setting.

Maintain the scenic natural landscape in current form.

Maintain the high quality and unfragmented wildlife habitat.

Management Actions

Close all reclaimed vehicle routes except those needed to facilitate public access. Designate routes needed for access through a structured evaluation process, such as that in Appendix D.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in Section 2.5.2.2.2.6.

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

Prohibit vegetation sales.

Prohibit building of new fences and vehicle routes.

Build no new recreation sites.

Since *Alternative D* proposes cessation of grazing, remove all fences except those needed to keep livestock from wandering in from adjoining grazed lands.

2.5.2.2.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

Alternative D proposes no land tenure adjustment decisions for the Castle Hot Springs MU since no lands have been proposed for disposal or acquisition.

Communication Sites

No designated communication sites would be located within this MU.

2.5.2.2.2.3 Biological Resources

No biological resource allocations would be made within the 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 section of this chapter and in Section 2.7.3.4 - Biological Resources in the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area

2.5.2.2.2.4 Cultural Resources

No cultural resources would be allocated to public use within this MU.

2.5.2.2.2.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

Castle Hot Springs Regional Special Recreation Management Area

Desired Future Condition

Manage Castle Hot Springs MU outside of the Hieroglyphic Mountains SRMA (described below) as a regional special recreation management area, supported by local and regional communities and managed by BLM in partnership with communities and local governments. These communities and governments have a vested interest in open space, outdoor-based recreation opportunities, and local and regional air quality.

Management emphasis stresses meeting a wide range of regional recreation needs while doing the following:

- maintaining the quality of life for local communities,
- preserving open space and natural landscapes, and
- ensuring resource conservation.

The area would have an array of recreation settings (rural, roaded-natural, semi-primitive motorized, and semi-primitive non-motorized) and the following opportunities:

- intense motorized activity,
- permitted recreation events,
- developed facilities,
- highly dispersed motorized recreation,
- remote semi-primitive and wilderness, and
- non-motorized recreation.

Management Actions

Locate and develop facilities, staging areas, trails, signage, trailheads, and other sites, where needed, for resource protection or for maintaining recreation opportunities. Develop up to three designated staging and camping areas to meet high recreation demand, and provide for the following:

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

Limit to 100 acres the area of exposed barren soil.

Designate vehicle routes through a structured evaluation process such as in Appendix D within 5 years of the signing of this plan. Use a structured evaluation process to redesignate routes, as suitable, as conditions change because of:

- increased use,
- expanding wildland-urban interface (WUI),
- dust standard compliance, and
- other factors that affect vehicle routes.

Most motorized use in the Baldy Mountain ONA ACEC, the Hieroglyphic Mountains SRMA, and the BLM's lands west, east, and south of Quintero would be mitigated, or eliminated within 1 to 20 years.

Focus mitigation to reduce vehicular sources of noise and dust from BLM's lands affecting adjoining developing private lands.

Emphasize a semi-primitive non-motorized management setting for Baldy Mountain ONA ACEC immediately upon plan approval.

Implement a phase-in of OHV closures in response to citizens' requests, conflicts with

residents and communities, and the need to meet air quality and dust compliance standards.

Close areas to motorized use when needed to comply with county and City of Peoria land management and recreation use laws and ordinances for these areas.

Designated vehicle routes within the regional recreation management area would be available for up to four permitted commercial and competitive OHV events monthly. Such uses would eventually be phased out in areas adjoining the Quintero and Maughn properties, and other commercial or residential areas as they are developed.

Work closely with law enforcement authorities with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Yavapai County, Maricopa County, City of Peoria, and other agencies with jurisdiction to enhance visitor safety; improve resource protection; or ensure BLM's compliance with county, State, or Federal environmental laws.

Designate and build up to 100 miles of non-motorized trail.

Designate 100 to 200 miles of motorized use routes (single-track, ATV, and four-wheel drive) with one-way trips, destination trips, loops, and tours within the MU.

Manage recreational target shooting consistent with Recreational Target Shooting in the Recreation discussion of the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area section of this Chapter.

Site, plan, and develop multi-use trails and foot, bike, and horse trails linking Wickenburg and Lake Pleasant Regional Park, with other links to Peoria and Phoenix trail systems and the Black Canyon Trail.

Over a span of 15 to 20 years, as the adjacent City of Peoria, the Maughn and Quintero properties, and the Lake Pleasant area are commercially and residentially developed and

built out; phase out, mitigate, or eliminate conflicting motorized use in these areas.

Areas subject to phased-out motorized vehicle use would be located within a triangle defined by Castle Hot Springs/Lake Pleasant Road, Morristown Road, and State Route Highway 74. (This area essentially consists of the Hieroglyphic Mountain SRMA and the Baldy Mountain ONA). The Baldy Mountain area would become non-motorized immediately. Motorized use in the public land areas south and east of Quintero would be reduced or phased out in 1 to 15 years. The area west of the Hells Canyon Wilderness and east of the Maughn properties (essentially the Hieroglyphic Mountains SRMA proposal) would become mainly a non-motorized use area in 10 to 20 years. Open other parts of the area to dispersed motorized and non-motorized activities, but intensively manage such uses with a significant BLM ground presence in signing, facilities, law enforcement, and staffing.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in Section 2.5.2.2.2.6.

Administrative Actions

Designate Castle Hot Springs MU as a regional recreation management area. If found suitable, recommend this area for inclusion into a BLM-administered system of national recreation areas or as a national conservation area.

Charter a citizen, Government, and organization-based working group to guide the area's management; including community groups, the City of Peoria, Maricopa and Yavapai Counties, and other interested parties.

Land Use Allocation

Hieroglyphic Mountains SRMA

Desired Future Condition

Manage the Hieroglyphic Mountains SRMA mainly for recreation settings of roaded-

natural and semi-primitive motorized, shifting towards progressively more semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized over a 10-20 year period.

Management Actions

Substantially mitigate, or eliminate motorized use in the Hieroglyphic Mountains SRMA (the area west of the Hells Canyon Wilderness and east of the Maughn properties) over a period of 10 to 20 years. The focus of mitigation is to reduce vehicular sources of noise and dust from BLM's lands affecting adjoining developing private lands.

Phase in the OHV closures in response to citizens' requests, conflicts with residents and communities, and the need to meet air quality standards.

Close areas to motorized use when needed to comply with county and City of Peoria land management, and recreation use laws and ordinances for these areas.

Work closely with law enforcement authorities, with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Yavapai County, Maricopa County, City of Peoria, and other agencies with jurisdiction to:

- enhance visitor safety,
- improve resource protection, and
- ensure BLM's compliance with county, State, or Federal environmental laws.

Prohibit motorized competitive races.

Designate and develop a staging/camping area to meet the high recreation demand, providing for the following:

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

Limit to 10 acres the areas of exposed barren soil.

As motorized use is phased out, redesign the staging area for non-motorized users. The area could be redesigned as a trailhead for hikers and equestrian users, with a place to park vehicles and unload horses.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in Section 2.5.2.2.2.6.

2.5.2.2.2.6 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative D* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-59.

Within the Castle Hot springs Management Unit, allocate:

- Baldy Mountain ONA ACEC and Sheep Mountain RNA ACEC to VRM Class I objectives.
- Hieroglyphics SRMA to VRM Class III objectives.
- Throughout the rest of the Management Unit, VRM classes would be allocated as shown on Map 2-59.

2.5.2.2.2.7 Mineral Resource Management

Management Actions

Withdraw Tule Creek ACEC from mineral entry, close to mineral and geothermal leasing, and mineral material disposal.

Withdraw Baldy Mountain ONA ACEC and Sheep Mountain RNA ACEC from mineral entry, close to mineral and geothermal leasing, and mineral material disposal.

2.5.2.2.2.8 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

ACECs are discussed in Section 2.5.2.2.2.1.

SRMAs and other recreation allocations are discussed in Section 2.5.2.2.2.5.

Management Actions

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. Until route designation is completed, all vehicle travel is restricted to inventoried routes as shown in chapter 3.

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

Close all secondary, tertiary, primitive, single-track, washes, and reclaiming vehicle routes within the Baldy Mountain ONA/ACEC (9,080 acres), undisturbed by vehicle routes and human activities.

Prohibit building of new vehicle routes within the Sheep Mountain RNA ACEC. Close all reclaimed vehicle routes except those needed to facilitate administrative or convert vehicle routes to non-motorized routes for public access within the RNA.

The Castle Hot Springs Regional Special Recreation Management Area would include up to 100 miles of non-motorized trail. Designate 100 to 200 miles of motorized use routes (single-track, ATV, and four-wheel drive) with one-way trips, destination trips, loops, and tours within the MU.

Substantially phase out, mitigate, or eliminate motorized use in the Hieroglyphic Mountains SRMA (the area west of the Hells Canyon Wilderness and east of the Maughn properties) over a period of 10 to 20 years. Phase in the OHV closures in response to citizen requests, conflicts with residents and communities, and the need to meet air quality standards. Close areas to motorized use when needed to comply with county and City of Peoria land management and dust ordinances for these areas.

2.5.2.2.3 Hassayampa Management Unit

The Hassayampa MU is located with the City of Wickenburg at its center. It is bounded on the east by Prescott National Forest and the Castle Hot Springs MU and on the west by the Harquahala MU. Its southern edge is south of the Vulture Mountains, and it extends north past Yarnell (Map 2-67).

The Hassayampa MU contains the following lands:

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

2.5.2.2.3.1 Special 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 of this chapter.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Vulture Mountains ACEC (6,120 acres)

Relevance

The cliffs along the crest of Vulture and Caballeros Peaks are significant habitat features used by many species of raptors. They are also a pristine, scenic landmark. They are essential to maintaining the current biological diversity of the surrounding area. Large concentrations of nesting hawks and falcons use these spectacular cliff faces.

Importance

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

Desired Future Condition

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

Management Actions

The ACEC boundary would consist of a 1-mile buffer of significant cliffs.

Prohibit the building of new vehicle routes.

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

Prohibit the building of new recreation sites.

Prohibit rock climbing in the ACEC.

Close, limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes that conflict with wildlife values, in particular those that affect successful raptor nesting, to meet the DFCs.

Acquire non-Federal lands within the ACEC as available.

2.5.2.2.3.2 Lands and Realty**Land Tenure Adjustments**

No lands are identified for disposal within the Hassayampa MU.

Communication Sites

No designated communication sites are proposed for this MU.

2.5.2.2.3.3 Biological Resources

No 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 section of this chapter and in Section 2.7.3.4 - Biological Resources in the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area.

2.5.2.2.3.4 Cultural Resources

No cultural resources would be allocated to public use within this MU.

2.5.2.2.3.5 Recreation Resources***Land Use allocation***

Stanton SRMA

Desired Future Condition

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

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

Maintain roaded-natural and semi-primitive motorized recreation opportunities and settings.

Management Actions

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

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

Install informational, educational, and interpretive kiosks and trail signs, where suitable, for optimum user information and education. Placement of interpretive signs along the Stanton-Octave-Yarnell road, as proposed under the Lower Gila North MFP, would be consistent with this action.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in Section 2.5.2.2.3.7.

Administrative Actions

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

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

Land Use Allocation

Yarnell SRMA

Desired Future Condition

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

approaches to landing areas as free of flight hazards as possible (Map 2-32).

Management Actions

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

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

Acquire the Arizona State Trust Land parcel southwest of Yarnell containing Fool's Gulch (Section 22).

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

Land Use Allocation

San Domingo SRMA

Desired Future Condition

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

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

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

Management Actions

Locate and develop trailheads, staging and camping areas, and other facilities as needed for

recreation activities. Limit to 10 acres the areas of exposed barren soil.

Prohibit motorized competitive races in the SRMA.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in Section 2.5.2.2.3.7.

Administrative Actions

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

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

Land Use Allocation

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

2.5.2.2.3.6 Wilderness Characteristics

Land Use Allocation

Within the Hassayampa Management Unit, 13,200 acres would be allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics as shown on Map 2-71.

Desired Future Condition

Manage for open space and generally natural landscapes with primitive and semi-primitive non-motorized recreation settings.

Increase availability of non-motorized recreation opportunities.

Manage to complement the region's recreation opportunities.

In addition to the DFC described above, DFC and management actions described in the Wilderness Characteristics discussion under the Management Common to All Action Alternatives section of Chapter 2 also apply.

Management Actions

Close tertiary, primitive, reclaiming, single-track vehicle routes, and washes to motorized vehicles.

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

Allow vehicle-based camping in designated areas.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in Section 2.5.2.2.3.7.

Prohibit vegetation sales.

2.5.2.2.3.7 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative D* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-59.

Within the Hassayampa Management Unit, allocate:

- Lands allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics to VRM Class I objectives.
- Stanton and San Domingo SRMAs to VRM Class III objectives.
- Utility corridors would be allocated to VRM Class III or IV.
- The rest of the Management Unit would be allocated to VRM classes as shown on Map 2-59.

2.5.2.2.3.8 Mineral Resource Management

Management Actions

Withdraw the Vulture Mountains ACEC and lands allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics from mineral entry, close to mineral and geothermal leasing, and mineral material disposal.

2.5.2.2.3.9 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

ACECs are discussed in Section 2.5.2.2.3.1.

SRMAs and other recreation allocations are discussed in Section 2.5.2.2.3.5.

Allocations to maintain wilderness characteristics are discussed in Section 2.5.2.2.3.6.

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. Until route designation is completed, all vehicle travel is restricted to inventoried routes as shown in chapter 3.

Establish the Stanton SRMA and designate a diverse network of motorized vehicle routes and allow a range of OHV experiences and challenges.

Establish the San Domingo SRMA and maintain a Sonoran Desert wash and upland environment suitable for an array of motorized and non-motorized uses.

Prohibit the building of new vehicle routes and close, limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes within the Vulture Mountains ACEC (6,120 acres) that conflict with wildlife values, in particular those affecting successful raptor nesting, to meet the DFCs.

Close tertiary, primitive, reclaiming, single-track vehicle routes, and washes to motorized vehicles on 13,200 acres allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics as shown on Map 2-67.

2.5.2.2.4 Harquahala Management Unit

Alternative D would slightly expand the Harquahala MU. The MU is bounded on the east by the Hassayampa MU and extends west to the Phoenix District boundary, near the town of Wenden. The MU's southern boundary includes the private and State land south to Interstate 10. The northern boundary follows the BLM's property line south of State Route 60, which goes west of Wickenburg, through Aguila and Wenden (Map 2-68).

The Harquahala MU would include the following land:

- 420,730 acres of BLM-administered lands,
- 48,410 acres of Arizona State land, and
- 29,616 acres of private land.

Vision

The Harquahala Mountains are renowned for their cultural history, the quality and uniqueness of their biotic communities, and the diversity of their recreation opportunities. The mountain ranges in this MU (Harquahala, Big Horn, and Belmont Mountains) and the areas between them

create a complex of wildlife habitats and wildlife movement corridors that the AGFD recognizes as priority management areas. The abundant recreation opportunities include the following:

- primitive experiences,
- designated hiking trails,
- a back country byway,
- backpacking,
- wildlife viewing,
- hunting,
- rock hounding,
- equestrian uses,
- cultural sightseeing, and
- OHV-driving opportunities.

The MU's scenic and natural landscapes are maintained while offering visitors a diverse array of recreation opportunities. Such opportunities within the MU include both motorized and non-motorized activities. At the same time, a priority is placed on maintaining, enhancing, and restoring natural, biological, and cultural resources.

2.5.2.2.4.1 Special Designations

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

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Belmont-Big Horn Mountains ACEC (77,730 acres)

Relevance

This area encompasses diverse biological resources within a scenic and undisturbed landscape of vegetation zones within the Sonoran Desert.

Importance

The area contains valuable habitat for desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep.

Desired Future Condition

The unfragmented wildlife habitat provides adequate forage, cover, and access to water for healthy wildlife populations.

Management Actions

Prohibit mineral leasing and mineral material sales.

Prohibit the building of new vehicle routes and fences.

Acquire all available State and private lands from willing sellers.

Close, limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining wildlife habitat values to ensure achieving DFC.

Prohibit the building of new recreation sites.

Since *Alternative D* proposes no authorizations for livestock grazing, remove all livestock control fences except those needed to keep livestock from wandering onto public lands from adjoining grazed properties.

Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC (74,940 acres)

Relevance

The area constitutes a rare, intact, mountaintop vegetation community surrounded by low desert. The mountains contain a biologically diverse system, in stark contrast to the surrounding landscape, and support a diverse sky island ecosystem, with many species not found in the surrounding Sonoran Desert. The mountains are a natural area with few noticeable human intrusions in a primitive landscape setting.

Importance

The ONA encloses and preserves a unique assemblage of biological resources, conserves significant cultural and historic sites, and protects a distinctive vegetation community. The biological richness of the Harquahala Mountains is unique within southwest Arizona. The Harquahala Mountains and surrounding bajadas provide important wildlife habitat to a diverse array of wildlife species. The area is an ecoregional conservation site with important biodiversity values.

The ONA contains the Harquahala Mountain Observatory National Register of Historic Places District. Besides the observatory itself, the historic Harquahala Peak Pack Trail, Ellison's Camp, and other sites are also components of the historic district. The area also includes many well-preserved prehistoric sites along with historic ranching and mining sites. Some archaeological sites may be related to the use of the mountain range by a regional group of the Western Yavapai tribe.

The ONA will safeguard important and unfragmented wildlife habitat.

Desired Future Condition

Manage the area to emphasize protecting the sensitive resources presented in the statements of relevance and importance.

Achieve long-term conservation of scenic and cultural values. Preserve outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude, including high-quality hiking, backpacking, hunting, wildlife observation, and cultural study prospects.

Manage the ONA to preserve outstanding wilderness values. Permit vehicle access on designated routes only. Manage these routes to achieve semi-primitive motorized recreation settings. Prohibit vehicles from going cross-country off designated routes, and manage the area beyond 1/2 mile from vehicle routes to

achieve semi-primitive non-motorized and primitive recreation settings.

Emphasize the following:

- increasing primitive recreation opportunities,
- practicing backcountry skills,
- attaining isolation from other users, and
- maintaining remoteness.

Manage the ONA to restore and maintain the plant diversity and richness of the chaparral, riparian/wetland, and Sonoran Desert scrub vegetation communities. Conserving the vegetation communities and managing for healthy wildlife populations, are a priority in managing the ONA. Manage the area to achieve and maintain unfragmented wildlife habitat, which provides adequate forage, cover, and access to water for healthy wildlife populations.

Manage selected prehistoric and historic sites in the ONA for interpretive development, educational uses, and public visitation. For further information on public use of cultural resources, see Appendix E.

Management Actions

Conduct a route designation process, using a structured evaluation such as the one in Appendix D.

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

Close any routes that degrade natural, scenic, wildlife, primitive recreation opportunities, or cultural sites.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in Section 2.5.2.2.4.7.

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

Allow primitive camping in designated areas only and establish standards to reduce evidence of human activity.

Prohibit building of new vehicle routes and fences.

Protect spring sources by prohibiting surface disturbance at them.

Acquire all available State and private lands from willing sellers.

Prohibit building of new recreation sites that conflict with bighorn sheep management, habitat, or movement.

Since *Alternative D* proposes cessation of grazing, remove all livestock control fences except those needed to keep livestock from wandering onto public lands from adjoining grazed properties.

Administrative Actions

Implement actions to find, monitor, and protect important cultural resources. Maintain the condition of the Harquahala Observatory historical site and its interpretive facilities. Undertake an inventory of cultural resources for the following purposes:

- to find and evaluate sites,
- to determine proper site uses, and
- to develop and implement protective measures for cultural resources within the ACEC.

Black Butte ONA ACEC (14,480 acres)

Relevance

The area contains the Vulture obsidian source used to make stone tools during prehistoric times.

The cliffs at the crest of Black Butte are significant habitat features used by many raptor species. The cliffs are also a pristine, scenic

landmark. They are essential to maintaining the current biological diversity of the surrounding area.

Importance

Archaeologists consider the Vulture obsidian source to be one of the major sources of a valuable trade commodity in prehistoric Arizona. Obsidian (volcanic glass) was used widely for producing stone tools. Nodules of Vulture obsidian have a distinctive chemical composition that allows archaeologists to map changes in its distribution, use, and trade by prehistoric peoples. Vulture obsidian has been traced to prehistoric sites within at least a 100-mile radius of Black Butte.

The value of the cliffs for nesting birds of prey is significant for a large area. Nesting raptors are sensitive to construction-related human activities. If these cliffs are not protected from these activities, cliff-nesting raptors would disappear from much of the surrounding area.

Desired Future Condition

Manage the ACEC to emphasize protecting the sensitive resources presented in the statements of relevance and importance.

Maintain current natural conditions and open space. Shift the management emphasis to management for wilderness character. Manage the area surrounding Black Butte and Jackrabbit Wash for primitive values. Preserve good non-motorized recreation opportunities and settings. Conserve scenic volcanic landscapes. Provide outstanding solitude opportunities.

Retain Black Butte's cultural significance as an important source and location of material for prehistoric tool production. Sustain important raptor nesting habitat in the central Black Butte cliffs area. Restore, enhance, and maintain wildlife and plant diversity and species richness of this Sonoran Desert vegetation community. Conserving the vegetation communities and managing for healthy wildlife populations are priorities in managing the ONA.

Management Actions

Management preserves and enhances the semi-primitive non-motorized setting.

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in Section 2.5.2.2.4.7.

Do not permit vegetation sales.

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

Prohibit the building of new recreation sites.

Prohibit rock climbing in the ACEC.

Close, limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining wildlife habitat or cultural values to ensure achieving DFC.

Preserve the Vulture obsidian source, permit scientific study, and restrict activities that threaten the integrity of the source.

2.5.2.2.4.2 Lands and Realty**Land Tenure Adjustments**

Alternative D proposes no lands for disposal within the Harquahala MU.

Communication Sites

The Harquahala Peak communication site would be the only designated communication site within the Harquahala MU.

2.5.2.2.4.3 Biological Resources

No allocations would be made for biological resources within Harquahala 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 section of this

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

2.5.2.2.4.4 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 allocated to public use and interpreted to further public knowledge, enjoyment, and stewardship of cultural heritage values. For further information on public use of cultural resources, see Appendix E.

Management Actions

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

- platforms,
- restrooms,
- picnic tables,
- benches,
- trash receptacles,
- signs along routes and trails to direct visitors to interpreted sites,
- hard-surfaced walking trails,
- interpretive signs and register boxes,
- brochures and related educational materials or programs, and
- actions to stabilize, repair, and maintain sites in good condition.

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

Administrative Actions

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

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

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

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

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

2.5.2.2.4.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

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

2.5.2.2.4.6 Wilderness Characteristics

Land Use Allocation

Within the Harquahala Management Unit, 76,545 acres would be allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics as shown on Map 2-71.

Desired Future Condition

In addition to the DFC described in the Wilderness Characteristics discussion of Management Common to Both Planning Areas section, the following conditions would also be managed for:

- to retain natural landscapes,
- to ensure high-quality primitive recreation experiences,
- to maintain the area's remote character,
- to preserve an array of scenic or special features,
- to attain a semi-primitive non-motorized setting,
- to maintain or enhance unfragmented desert tortoise, bighorn sheep, and other wildlife habitat, and
- to maintain wildlife habitat corridors for genetic migration.

Management Actions

Allocations for Visual Resource Management designed to achieve Desired Future Conditions are discussed in Section 2.4.2.2.4.7.

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

Prohibit vegetation sales.

Permit motorized and mechanized vehicular travel only on designated routes. Use a structured process such as the one in Appendix D to evaluate routes for designation to achieve the DFC and other management objectives.

2.5.2.2.4.7 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative D* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-59.

Within the Harquahala Management Unit, allocate:

- Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC, Black Butte ONA ACEC, and lands allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics to VRM Class I objectives.
- Utility corridors would be allocated to VRM Class III or IV.
- The rest of the Management Unit would be allocated to VRM classes as shown on Map 2-59.

2.5.2.2.4.8 Mineral Resource Management

Management Actions

Close Belmont-Big Horn Mountains ACEC to mineral and geothermal leasing, and to mineral material sales.

Withdraw from mineral entry, close to mineral and geothermal leasing, and close to mineral material disposal the following areas:

- Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC.
- Black Butte ONA ACEC and lands allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics.

2.5.2.2.4.9 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

ACECs are discussed in Section 2.5.2.2.4.1.

SCRMA and cultural resource sites allocated to Public Use are discussed in Section 2.5.2.2.4.4.

Allocations to maintain wilderness characteristics are discussed in Section 2.5.2.2.4.6.

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. Until route designation is completed, all vehicle travel is restricted to inventoried routes as shown in Chapter 3.

Prohibit the building of new vehicle routes, and close, limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining wildlife habitat values to ensure achieving DFC within the Belmont-Big Horn Mountains ACEC (77,730 acres).

Close any routes that degrade natural, scenic, wildlife, non-motorized primitive recreation opportunities, or cultural sites, and close, limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining wildlife habitat or cultural values to ensure achieving the DFC within the Harquahala Mountains ONA ACEC (74,940 acres). Also prohibit building of new vehicle routes and fences within the ONA ACEC.

Close, limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes within the Black Butte ONA ACEC (14,480 acres) conflicting with maintaining wildlife habitat or cultural values to ensure achieving DFC.

Permit motorized and mechanized vehicular travel only on designated routes on 76,545 acres allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics as shown on Map 2-71.

Consider development of hard-surfaced walking trails at selected cultural sites within the Harquahala Mountains SCRMA for interpretation, education, and visitation to prehistoric and historic sites.

2.5.2.2.5 Harcuvar Management Unit

The Harcuvar MU encompasses the eastern most end of the Harcuvar Mountains within the PD's administrative area. Most of the Harcuvar Mountain range is administered by BLM's Lake Havasu Field Office. The Harcuvar MU is bounded on the west and north by the PD boundary with the Lake Havasu Field Office, and on the east and south by the boundary between BLM- and non-BLM-administered lands (Map 2-51).

The Harcuvar MU contains the following lands:

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

2.5.2.2.5.1 Special Designations

Alternative D proposes no Special Designations within the Harcuvar MU.

2.5.2.2.5.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

Alternative D identifies no lands for disposal or acquisition within this MU.

Communication Sites

There would be no designated communication sites within this MU.

2.5.2.2.5.3 Biological Resources

No allocations would be made for biological resources within Harcuvar 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 section of this chapter and in Section 2.7.3.4 - Biological Resources in the Management Common to the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area.

2.5.2.2.5.4 Cultural Resource

No cultural resources would be allocated to public use within this MU.

2.5.2.2.5.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

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

2.5.2.2.5.6 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative D* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-59.

Within the Harcuvar Management Unit:

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

2.5.2.2.5.7 Mineral Resource Management

Alternative D proposes no mineral withdrawals or closures for the Harcuvar MU.

2.5.2.2.5.8 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).

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. All vehicles would be limited to designated routes.

2.5.2.2.6 Peeples Valley Management Unit

Peeples Valley MU is located west of the Yarnell area in the Date Creek Mountains (Map 2-69). The MU has only a small proportion of BLM's land but offers some resource management opportunities.

The Peeples Valley MU contains the following land:

- 15,500 acres of BLM-administered lands,
- 207,040 acres of Arizona State land,
- 98,215 acres of private land.

Vision

BLM-administered lands in the Peeples Valley MU are generally distributed in relatively small, highly irregular pieces surrounded by State and private land. The resources on these lands are used by both local residents and recreation visitors and are considered important by those users. Further, regional features (mountain ranges, riparian areas) contain valuable wildlife habitat, especially for desert tortoise and bighorn sheep. The area also has a long mining and ranching history that has contributed to local settlement patterns and culture. For these

reasons, Peeples Valley MU was created to explore long-term, coordinated management of the region's valuable recreation, wildlife, minerals, and other resources.

A regional approach to development and land management that preserves the quality and quantity of valuable recreation, wildlife, and other resources, while maintaining the stability of local economies and cultures is emphasized.

A citizen, agency, and Government working group exists to explore a regional approach to planning and managing lands that emphasizes sustainability of both natural resources and local communities. In conjunction with State, county, and local governments with planning and management jurisdiction within the MU, a coordinated approach to achieving commonly established goals and objectives is used.

2.5.2.2.6.1 Special Designations

Alternative D proposes no Special Designations within Peeples Valley MU.

2.5.2.2.6.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

No lands are proposed for disposal within this MU.

Communication Sites

No designated communication sites are proposed for this MU.

2.5.2.2.6.3 Biological Resources

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

Date Creek Mountains Wildlife Habitat Area.

Desired Future Condition

Maintain the wildlife/plant diversity and richness of the Sonoran Desert scrub vegetation community. Unfragmented wildlife habitat provides adequate forage, cover, and access to water for healthy wildlife populations.

Management Actions

Acquire high-quality desert tortoise habitat from willing sellers.

Prohibit the building of new vehicle routes and fences.

Remove all livestock control fences because *Alternative D* proposes no authorizations for grazing.

Close, limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining riparian and wildlife values to ensure achieving DFC.

Prohibit mineral material disposal and vegetation sales.

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

2.5.2.2.6.4 Cultural Resources

No cultural resources would be allocated to public use within this MU.

2.5.2.2.6.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

Skull Valley Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)

Desired Future Condition (DFC)

Retain landscape character while maintaining motorized access to routes in Prescott National Forest.

Management Actions

Transfer management of the SRMA to the adjacent Prescott National Forest.

Land Use Allocation

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

2.5.2.2.6.6 Visual Resources

Land Use Allocations

VRM classes for *Alternative D* throughout the planning area would be allocated as described in Table 2-2 and as portrayed on Map 2-59. Within the Peoples Valley Management Unit, VRM classes would be allocated the same as shown on the referenced map.

2.5.2.2.6.7 Mineral Resource Management

Management Action

Close Date Creek Mountains Wildlife Habitat Area to mineral material disposal.

2.5.2.2.6.8 Travel Management

Land Use Allocation

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

Other Resource Allocations with Travel Management Prescriptions

The Date Creek Mountains WHA is discussed in the Biological Resources Section 2.5.2.2.6.3.

SRMAs and other recreation allocations are discussed in Section 2.6.2.2.6.5.

Management Actions

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. Until route designation is completed, all vehicle travel is restricted to inventoried routes as shown in chapter 3.

Prohibit the building of new vehicle routes and close, limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes that conflict with maintaining riparian and wildlife values within the Date Creek Mountains WHA, in order to ensure achieving DFC.

Within the Skull Valley SRMA, retain landscape character while maintaining motorized access to routes in Prescott National Forest.

2.5.2.2.7 Upper Agua Fria River Basin Management Unit

The Upper Agua Fria River Basin MU is sandwiched between the Bradshaw Mountains and Verde Ranger Districts of Prescott National Forest. It stretches from Cordes Lakes in the south to the Town of Prescott Valley in the north (Map 2-70).

The Upper Agua Fria River Basin MU contains the following land:

- 21,520 acres of BLM-administered lands,
- 36,990 acres of Arizona State land, and
- 39,290 acres of private land.

2.5.2.2.7.1 Special Designations

Nomination to National Recreation Trail System

Black Canyon Trail

Desired Future Condition

An ever-increasing urban population will seek out the trail for various recreation benefits and outcomes. Promote the preservation of the scenery, public access to the trail, safe travel on the trail, appreciation and enjoyment of the open space, and historic resources of the Black Canyon corridor. A National Recreation Trail should be established primarily within urban areas, secondarily, within scenic areas, and along historic travel routes of the areas.

Management Actions

Evaluate the Black Canyon Trail for inclusion into the National Recreation Trail System, as described in the National Trails System Act of 2002 (P.L.90-543).

Issue a right-of-way agreement for the trail and facilities to preserve their access and long-term character.

Acquire easements, rights-of-way, or both on non-Federal lands where the trail or facilities must cross or be built.

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

2.5.2.2.7.2 Lands and Realty

Land Tenure Adjustments

There would be no lands proposed for disposal.

Communication Sites

No designated communication sites have been proposed for this MU.

2.5.2.2.7.3 Biological Resources

Land Use Allocation

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.

Desired Future Condition

Maintain and enhance existing wildlife habitat and ensure unimpeded wildlife movement between BLM-managed Federal lands and adjacent national forest.

Management Actions

Prohibit building of new vehicle routes and fences on the remaining public lands.

Alternative D proposes making allotments unavailable for grazing and removing all livestock control fences, except those needed to keep livestock from wandering onto public lands from adjoining grazed properties.

Close, limit, or suitably mitigate vehicle routes that conflict with maintenance of riparian and wildlife values to ensure achieving DFC.

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

2.5.2.2.7.4 Cultural Resources

No cultural resources would be allocated to public use within this MU.

2.5.2.2.7.5 Recreation Resources

Land Use Allocation

North Black Canyon Trail SRMA

Desired Future Condition

Complete the Black Canyon Trail from Highway 69 north and east to connect with trails in Prescott National Forest. Design the trail to provide a non-motorized experience along or near the historic sheep driveway. The trail and any ancillary facilities will generally lie along the corridor established by secretarial order in 1969. Determine exact locations of the trail or any ancillary facilities in conjunction with the Yavapai County Trails Committee and other interested citizens.

Evaluate the trail for inclusion into the National Recreation Trail System in order to provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding urban population and in order to promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the Black Canyon corridor. A National Recreation Trail should be established primarily, near urban areas, secondarily, within scenic areas and along historic travel routes of the area.

Management Actions

Issue a right-of-way agreement for the trail and facilities to preserve their access and long-term character.

Acquire easements, rights-of-way, or both on non-Federal lands where the trail or facilities must cross or be built.