United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Phoenix District
Hassayampa Field Office
21605 North 7th Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85027
www.blm.gov/az/

Dear interested member of the public,

The Bureau of Land Management Hassayamapa Field Office is pleased to announce that the Table Mesa Recreation and Travel Management Plan and related Environmental Assessment(EA) are available for your review. The recreation and travel management plan describes actions for managing access, travel and recreation developments on approximately 11,500 acres of public land administered by the BLM near New River and Black Canyon City, Arizona. The EA provides an analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed plan, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. After the environmental examination was conducted, the BLM has concluded that the preferred action will not have a significant effect on the human environment.

This combined recreation and travel management plan represents the integration of public collaboration and input over the two years. The BLM wishes to express its appreciation to all who contributed their time, knowledge and expertise to this effort by participating in both this planning process and the Resource Management Plan process, which began in 2001. This area has the potential to become a nationally recognized recreation area where diverse recreation is embraced. We welcome and encourage your continued participation as this plan is implemented.

The release of the signed EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with Decisions Record begins a 30 day appeal period. During this period, you may examine the BLM's finding that the proposed action will not result in significant impacts to the environment. BLM's analysis and FONSI are based on the best information available at this time. Appeals must be post marked by July 20, 2010.

The plan and EA are available online at http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/info/nepa/environmental_library/rec_mgmt_plans/table_mesa.html. Copies are available for review at the Phoenix District Office, Tucson Field Office and the Arizona State Office. Your questions can be answered by calling Thomas Bickauskas at 623-580-5502, or via email at Thomas_Bickauskas@blm.gov.

We appreciate your interest and encourage your continued involvement as BLM completes similar plans throughout the Hassayampa Field Office.

Sincerely,

/s/ Steven Cohn
Field Manager, Hassayampa Field Office

DECISION RECORD

Environmental Assessment

DOI-BLM-AZ-PDO-2009-022-EA

Table Mesa Recreation and Travel Management Plan

DECISION

It is my decision to approve the *Table Mesa Recreation Management Zone Recreation and Travel Management Plan*, as described in the Proposed Action.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION

The *Table Mesa Recreation Management Zone Recreation and Travel Management Plan* represents our best attempt to improve the management of recreation in this popular area. It draws a reasonable balance between strong demands for diverse types of recreation and the resources that need protection.

Unmanaged recreation use in the Table Mesa area over the last thirty years has resulted in impacts to soils, vegetation, wildlife, and historical and archaeological resources. Under this Plan, recreation use at the Table Mesa Recreation Area will provide positive contributions to the human environment, add to the quality of life enjoyed by residents of and visitors to public lands north of Phoenix, and protect associated natural and cultural resources.

In this Plan, we outline a direction for recreation management, including the establishment of a route system. The Proposed Action focuses on many of the BLM priorities for managing recreation, including:

- Managing lands for desirable recreation experiences that contribute to quality of life
- Establishing a comprehensive approach to travel management
- Minimizing the effects of vehicular use on other forms of recreation, natural and cultural resources
- Enhancing visitor services
- Ensuring public health and safety

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The public has been informed of the process and has provided us with valuable input on how the area should be managed to address a wide variety of issues, such as target shooting, technical 4x4 vehicle use, motorcycle riding, non-motorized trail use surrounding the Black Canyon Trail, mining, camping, commercial tour operation, and private land owner desires.

While this is not an exhaustive list of the activities occurring in the area, the plan attempts to address the issues in a way that minimizes conflicts, offers as much personal freedom as possible and seeks to put a framework for management on an area where none has existed previously.

Through the scoping process, which included a total of six public meetings, many of the recommendations presented by the public were incorporated into the plan. We have taken extra care to explain why some recommendations were not incorporated. This Plan is stronger as a result of extensive public involvement.

MITIGATION

In attempting to balance public use with resource conservation, we must address Sonoran Desert Tortoise, a priority species. We have developed a method of balancing habitat quantity and quality on a field office level by considering Tortoise Habitat Banking. This allows for improved access and diversity of use in the Table Mesa area while conserving key tortoise habitat in other portions of the Field Office.

Mitigation measures for Desert Tortoise include:

1. 19.0 acres of Category 2 Tortoise Habitat needs to be reclaimed, equating to 15.7 miles of 10ft wide primitive roads. This will offset the losses associated with new route construction proposed in the Table Mesa area. Other areas within the Hassayampa Field Office will provide this offset. Two specific areas will be targeted:
    A. Sheep Mountain Recreation Management Zone
    B. Belmont/Big Horn Mountains Wildlife Habitat Area
2. Prior to construction of new vehicle routes, the alignment must be cleared of desert tortoises. Any tortoises found in the road path should be carefully moved out of the path and released unharmed. If feasible, construction should avoid shelter sites. Where a shelter site is found to be occupied, the tortoise would be removed by someone with appropriate training, and moved a safe distance away from the construction site.
3. All tortoise shelter sites in the path must be examined and once verified as empty, the site would be rendered unusable by covering the entry (thus preventing reentry), at which time, construction may continue.

Other Mitigation Measures include:

1. Route construction should be conducted between August 1st and February 15th to avoid potential destruction of active migratory bird nests.
2. Obtain legal public access across private land for route system connectivity, where not already secured, to avoid trespass onto private lands. While the designated route

system minimizes crossing private lands, public access is not yet secured along all designated routes.

APPEALS

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4. Your notice of appeal must be filed in this office, located at 21605 North 7th Avenue, Phoenix Arizona, 85027, within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition (request) pursuant to regulation 43 CFR Part 4.21(b) for a stay (suspension) of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice to appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice of appeal and the petition for a stay must also be submitted to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
4. Whether the public interest favors a granting the stay.

Authorized Officer

June 21, 2010
Date

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Environmental Assessment

DOI-BLM-AZ-PDO-2009-022-EA

Table Mesa Recreation and Travel Management Plan

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that implementing the *Table Mesa Recreation Management Zone Recreation and Travel Management Plan* – with appropriate measures – would result in a Finding of No Signification Impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

Authorized Officer

June 21, 2010

Date

TABLE MESA RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE

RECREATION AND TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN

&

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

DOI-BLM-AZ-PDO-2009-022-EA

PREPARED BY:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
PHOENIX DISTRICT OFFICE
HASSAYAMPA FIELD OFFICE

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

JUNE 2010

BLM

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Table Mesa planning area is located on the northern edge of the rapidly urbanizing Phoenix Metropolitan area in the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Bradshaw-Harquahala planning area. It pertains to the Hassayampa Field Office, located within the BLM Phoenix District Office. Population growth from 1990 to 2000 exceeded 40 percent in the region. As the population grows, so does the demand for recreational opportunities. The Table Mesa area is used for motorized recreation, target shooting, hiking, biking, equestrian use, recreational mining, camping, and site seeing. The area also contains a major utility corridor, permitted grazing allotments, active mining operations, and private land in holdings.

As use increases in this finite space, conflict can occur between users seeking differing recreation experiences. Additionally, as urban development encroaches upon public lands, recreation pressures can negatively impact natural and cultural resources, as well as other authorized uses, such as grazing and mining.

The Table Mesa Recreation and Travel Management Plan and is written in conformance with the *Bradshaw-Harquahala Approved Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision* (BH ARMP/ROD). For the Table Mesa area, the BH ARMP/ROD offers a mix of recreational opportunities that attempt to meet a wide variety of recreation demands, while reducing conflict among users with natural resources, cultural resources, and traditional public land uses. The BH ARMP/ROD emphasizes community partnerships to develop recreational opportunities in support of resource protection and public education. Within the Bradshaw-Harquahala planning area, the Table Mesa Recreation Management Zone (RMZ) is part of the Black Canyon Management Unit and Black Canyon Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). SRMAs are areas that require special management and/or have increased recreation use and demand. SRMAs are areas of intensive recreation use and are managed to retain recreation opportunities while protecting resources and reducing user conflicts. Portions of the Black Canyon Hiking and Equestrian Trail RMZ coincide with the Table Mesa RMZ. RMZs are located within SRMAs and have a particular recreation management focus or resource challenges.

This document is the product of extensive public and agency input and consists of background information, proposals received and considered from members of the public and governmental agencies, a proposed plan, plan alternatives, and an environmental assessment.

The goal of the **Table Mesa Recreation and Travel Management Plan** is to propose a management framework that allows for both current and future recreation needs in the Table Mesa area, while ensuring protection of resources. Specifically, this plan intends to reduce conflict among hikers, equestrian users, mountain bikers, recreational shooters, Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) users, private land owners, and other users of the area. It identifies the BLM

system of roads, primitive roads and trails, and the designations for their use and maintenance; it outlines facilities to be developed in support of recreation; defines buffered areas closed to recreational target shooting; and it discusses visitor management and plan implementation. The plan includes establishment of facilities, staging areas, creation of new motorized and non-motorized routes, and closure of some motorized routes.

The **Environmental Assessment (EA)** analyzes the Table Mesa Recreation Area plan and its alternative. The NEPA Number for this EA is DOI-BLM-AZ-PDO-2009-022-EA. Publication of this EA will which will be followed by a 15-day public review period, specifically seeking additional data or information that may fundamentally alter the proposed plan. Upon completion of the review period, and pending no fundamental alteration to the plan, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued along with a Decision Record. Following approval of the decision by the Hassayampa Field Manager, a notice of use restrictions pursuant 43CFR8342 and 43CFR8365 will be published in the Federal Register to establish rules necessary to implement the final Recreation and Travel Management plan and associated designations.

1.1 Planning Area Location

The Table Mesa RMZ is comprised of approximately 11,557 acres located within the Black Canyon Management Unit of the BLM's Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area (Figure 1). In addition to the BLM acreage, the planning area includes private land in-holdings. Its primary access point is from Interstate-17 at the Table Mesa Road Exit. It's located north of New River, south of Black Canyon City, and west of I-17. The southwestern boundary of the RMZ is adjacent to the Lake Pleasant Regional Park.

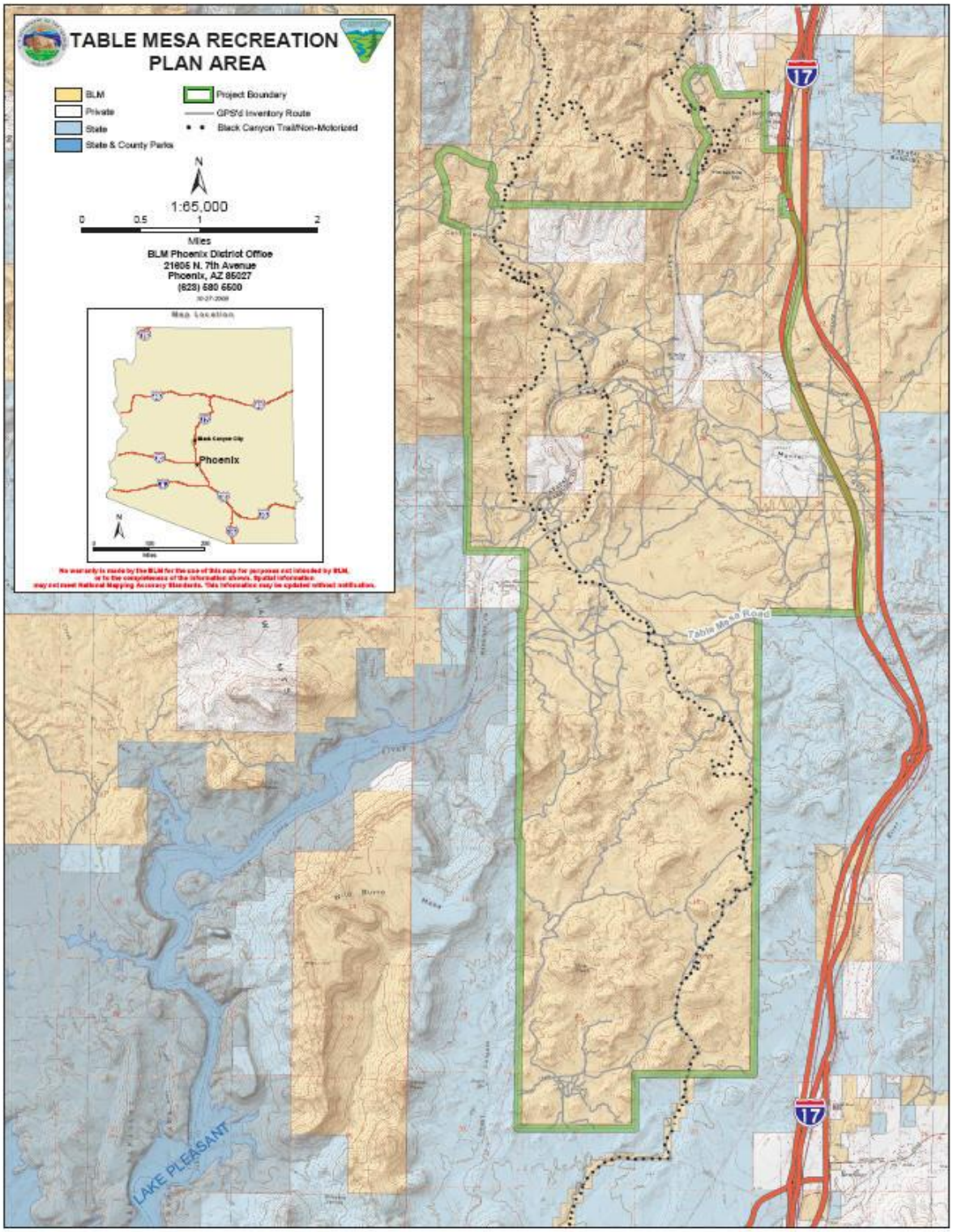

FIGURE 1: TABLE MESA PLANNING AREA MAP

1.2 Inventories

1.2.1 Route Inventory and Evaluation

A route inventory was conducted in the Table Mesa RMZ area during 2002 under an interagency project involving the State of Arizona Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) program, Arizona State Land Department, BLM and U.S. Forest Service. Interested user groups helped identify hard-to-find routes prior to the inventory (see Chapter 3 of the BH ARMP/ROD). Participants involved in route evaluation included representatives of the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the BLM. OHV user organizations and other interested groups and individuals submitted comments during meetings and associated comment periods, providing additional information on the use and need for particular roads and trails. The evaluation identified goals and objectives for the planning area, which addresses multiple use and resource protection concerns relating to recreation access and travel management. The evaluation was conducted using the *Route Evaluation Tree*™ procedure and was facilitated by an independent contractor. Based on the route evaluation and public meetings, the route system alternatives were created and are discussed in this plan.

1.2.2 Target Shooting Site Inventory and Evaluation

A target shooting site inventory began in 2002, was updated in 2008, and was completed in 2009 in conjunction with the Arizona Department of Game and Fish and the National Rifle Association (see Appendix A). The purpose of the assessment was to determine the locations and suitability of existing shooting sites within the Table Mesa area. The assessment considered 40 sites currently being used for target shooting. Most existing shooting sites in the Table Mesa RMZ occur along roads. Based on this evaluation, a plan to conserve natural and cultural resources, improve visitor experiences and public safety was deemed necessary.

1.3 Benefits Based Recreation Management

Benefits Based Management (BBM) is a recreation management philosophy that focuses on the positive and beneficial outcomes derived from recreational activities, rather than emphasizing the recreation activities themselves. It promotes quality recreation experiences from the visitors' or users' perspectives. BBM provides the conceptual recreation framework to view, plan and collaboratively deliver recreation services as a means to a larger end – an end in which outcomes benefit individuals, communities, economies and the environment. By conducting BBM analysis, recreational settings can be better delineated and managed. In BBM, priority is given to resource dependent recreation. Resource dependent recreation is that which can only be done where the natural resource or setting exists. An example is running for fitness versus nature hiking. Fitness running can be done on a treadmill or anywhere a suitable surface exists. Nature hiking requires a natural setting and things to observe along the way. Hiking would not be suitable indoors or in unnatural settings, thus it is a resource dependent recreation.

BBM analysis was conducted for recreational uses in the Bradshaw-Harquahala planning process and it was determined that – while recognizing other forms of recreation in the area – the primary niche for the Table Mesa RMZ is intensive motorized recreation for single and two-track routes with camping related to OHV use. OHV recreation is closely associated with the use of specialized two, three and four wheel vehicles, intended for recreation or racing uses. Vehicles include dirt bikes, quads, go-carts, utility terrain vehicles (UTVs or side-by-sides), and specially prepared 4x4 vehicles.

1.4 Scoping & Public Participation

This Table Mesa Recreation and Travel Management Plan has been crafted with considerable input from individual citizens and groups who utilize the area for recreation activities, interested landowners, other interested members of the public, and government agencies at the federal, state, and local levels. Feedback has been received in writing and in public scoping meetings.

In an effort to collaborate with individuals and groups interested in the outcome of the Table Mesa RMZ planning effort, six formal public meetings were held in Phoenix and Anthem, including three scoping meetings (November 18th and 20th, 2008 and June 30th, 2009) and three core strategy meetings (January 20th, February 3rd and 17th, 2009). Notes from each of these meetings can be found in Appendix C. Communication has been encouraged by establishing dedicated public scoping websites containing meeting notes, planning processes, and maps on the BLM website at the following address: (http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/info/nepa/environmental_library/rec_mgmt_plans/table_mesa.html).

Scoping revealed that the Table Mesa area is utilized by the public for a variety of recreational purposes, including:

- Target Shooting
- Off-Highway vehicle driving and Rock Crawling
- Hiking on the Black Canyon Trail and other trails
- Rock Hounding
- Equestrian activities
- Camping
- Hunting
- Mining and Gold Panning
- Access to fishing and other activities provided in adjacent Lake Pleasant Regional Park

The RMZ is heavily used for recreational target shooting and OHV driving but demand for all recreation types mentioned above is increasing as the Phoenix metropolitan urban area grows

closer to public lands. Some of the recreation uses engender solitude experiences with little non-natural noise, while others are amenable to large groups, with heavy mechanized use heavy noise.

In an attempt to encourage compatible recreation use within the Table Mesa RMZ and to accommodate resource protection, a zoned approach (see Figure 2) was derived for the proposed plan. Emphasis areas focus on hunting and habitat preservation, four-wheeling and technical vehicle driving, single track trails (for motorized and non-motorized use), and target shooting.

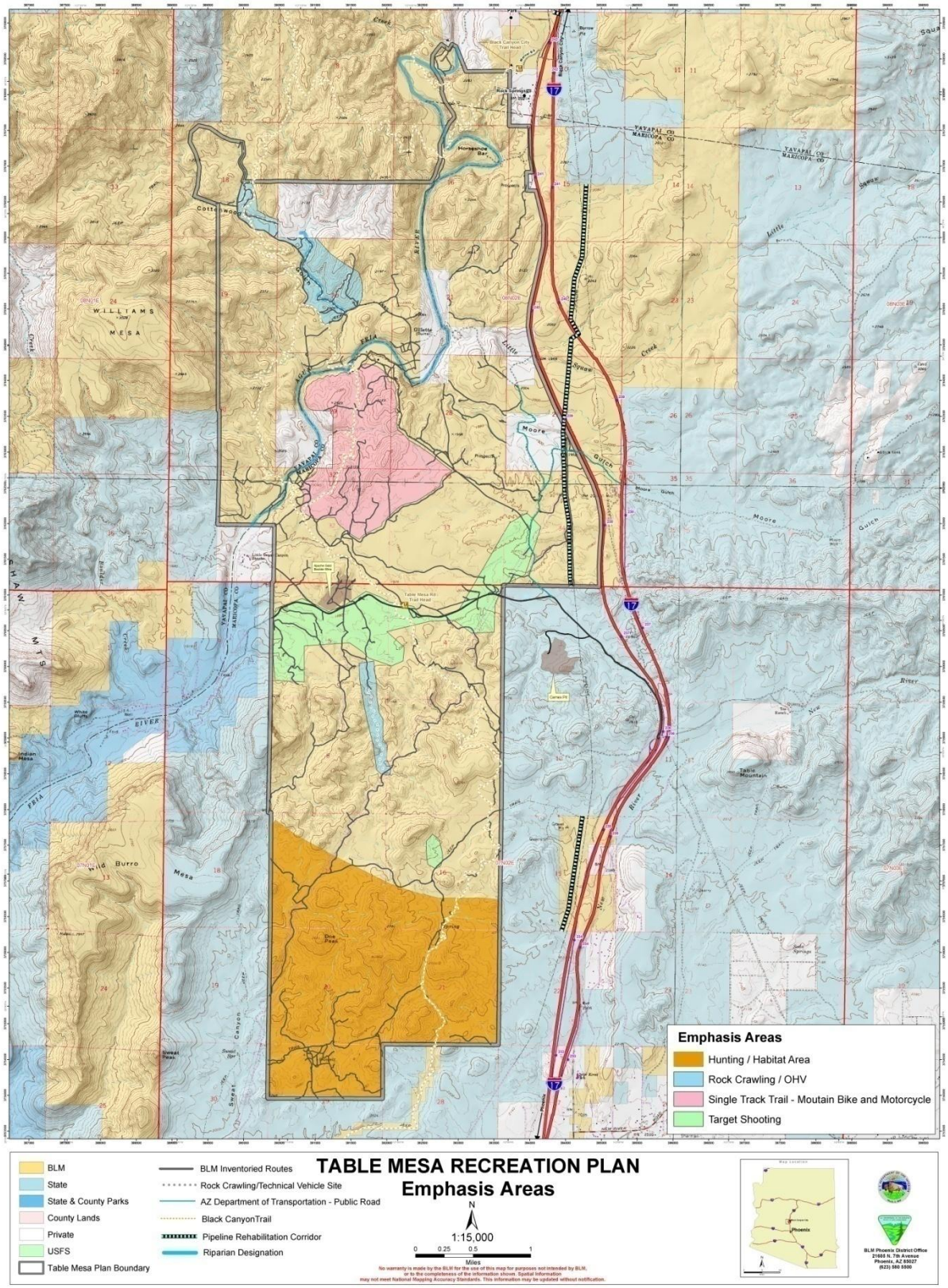

FIGURE 2: RECREATION EMPHASIS AREA MAP

1.5 Issues & Concerns

The following issues and concerns were identified during the scoping process. These issues and concerns help frame the purpose and need for the planning effort and shape the alternatives presented later in this document.

- Recreational shooting in unsafe locations and in high volume endangers other users, damages existing flora, and creates litter.
- OHV driving occurs off of routes, on county roads, cross country, and in sensitive riparian areas.
- The Black Canyon Trail (BCT) use is increasing but parking and staging areas are not sufficient.
- Access to some popular BLM recreation sites currently requires crossing private or state trust land, which the BLM may not endorse.
- OHV and Rock Crawling use is increasing and has damaged some desert tortoise habitat and riparian areas.
- Mining clubs have claims along the Agua Fria River riparian corridor, requiring access and staging locations.
- Rock Hounding use is increasing.
- Access across the Agua Fria River is dependent upon water levels, and during heavy rains, puts some users in danger and possibly harms river resources.
- State Lands will be closing the service road gas pipeline parallel to I-17 to vehicle traffic and is requesting BLM to do the same.
- Increasing recreation use requires larger staging and camping areas.
- Gravel pit operations in TR5NR2E Sec. 5 have unique concerns and may interrupt other uses and be interrupted by recreation.
- Access to popular recreation sites outside of the planning area should be considered.
- Grazing allotments throughout the RMZ are still active and require access.
- Wilderness characteristic areas are located immediately north of and adjacent to the RMZ.
- Arizona Department of Transportation is planning to widen Interstate Highway 17 along the eastern boundary of the RMZ and is concerned that the plan will conflict with future highway improvements.
- Parts of the RMZ occur within Maricopa County and are required to comply with state laws on dust pollution (PM10) Area A Particulate Matter 10 Dust Management protocols.
- Table Mesa Road is the main access route to the north arm of Lake Pleasant County Park. Conservation and recreational uses of the park's Agua Fria Conservation Area need to be considered to ensure that the management plans for the park and the Table Mesa

area complement each other, while allowing for a wide range of activities in diverse locations.

- Some private land owners are concerned about target shooting in areas adjacent to their land, planned for future housing development.
- Utilities need continued access.
- Access to BLM lands sometimes crosses county and state lands where such access may not be consistent with their management mission.

1.6 Proposals Considered in the Planning Process

Given the level of public and agency participation in the RMZ planning effort, many proposals were considered in the planning process. Each proposal from members of the public was considered in detail and in light of the desired future conditions and *Bradshaw-Harquahala ARMP/ROD* decisions for the Black Canyon SRMA, Table Mesa RMZ, and Black Canyon Hiking and Equestrian Trails RMZ.

Routes

- Ensure unlicensed vehicular access from Black Canyon City on both sides of I-17, South of Rusty Rock Mine and on gas line east of 1-17 under Moore's Gulch.
- With passage of a state law that requires a type of OHV License (decal), proposed route closures across state land may be appropriate. Reconsider proposed closures.
- Maintain open the routes that connect to state land, thus allowing loops.
- Maintain open the dead-end routes for cell phone access (thus improving safety) and to offer hilltop viewpoints. Monitor these places for route proliferation.
- Maintain open the dead-end route overlooking Gillette.
- Connect a loop in the south area to allow vehicle driving to be spread out and to improve trail riding. Make a loop route around the south end of the Table Mesa RMZ.
- Open routes to create loop trails.
- Add additional hiking and biking trails for various skill levels.
- Keep Old Stage Route open for access from Black Canyon City to "Collateral Damage" Rock Crawling area.
- Make a new route on the west side of the Gillette Property.
- Maintain access to Lake Pleasant Regional Park
- OHV and horse trails should be separate
- Need improved roads for cars
- Emphasize motorized use in this area with non-motorized emphasis in adjacent area
- Maintain access to Tip Top Mine
- Reopen old mining roads, specifically in the southern area (Bonnie Bell Mine)
- Allow motorized access from New River

- Evaluate and designate a sand run in the Agua Fria River
- Create a new route on BLM, parallel to the power line road and to allow loop route in south end of RMZ
- Conduct separate NEPA (environmental) analysis for each proposed route change
- Do not improve Table Mesa Road
- Consider at least 100 miles of OHV routes
- Consider allowing route 17B/19K for day use only
- Add single track mountain bike trails in Doe Peak area
- Consider allowing route 16P/16N to be designated as open for single track use only
- Driving in washes/ river should be allowed
- Add a long-distance motor cycle route from Table Mesa to Bumble Bee
- Consider separating trails by speed limit instead of vehicle/ use
- Do not limit public to existing trails.

Rock Crawling / Technical Vehicle Sites

- Close the egress road near tortoise habitat and use the egress road that "Anaconda" Rock Crawling site uses (12I).
- Need good, surface-hardened staging area to access rock crawling sites.
- Resurvey the "Collateral Damage" Rock Crawling site and provide access to it.
- Keep the "Die Hard" rock crawling site open and regulate shooting if necessary.
- Consider a northern access route (skirting private land) for "Collateral Damage" Rock Crawling site.
- Maintain as open all existing rock crawling routes.
- Open the "Armageddon" rock crawling site on a limited basis.

Recreational Target Shooting

- Consider access for disabled people in the shooting buffer proposal.
- If safe shooting areas are established, ensure that more than five or six are created to spread out the shooters.
- Close area north of Table Mesa Road to shooting since most of the OHV activity and camping occurs north of the road.
- Reevaluate the proposed closing of shooting site S-5 (maintain as open).
- Do not develop shooting sites or allow shooting to occur along the AZCO road.
- Do not identify safe shooting sites near private property that is planned for future residential development.
- Reevaluate the safe shooting area philosophy, since dispersed shooting keeps each group safe from other groups of shooters who may use poor judgment.
- Reconsider proposed closure of S22 and S29

- Reconsider proposed shooting closures at sites within washes as some users feel that lead migration concerns are unfounded and wash banks provide safe backstops (This proposal also included water quality data from the City of Phoenix Water Plant
- Create mini ranges and require their use – the Doe Peak area would be good for this
- Develop many smaller shooting areas instead of a few larger ones
- Retain shooting site S-29 as a shotgun range
- Develop shooting sites
- Do not close any of the RMZ to shooting
- Ban shooting in entire Table Mesa Planning Area
- Create safety fan areas to improve shooting safety

Hunting

- Include game hunting access to riparian areas.
- Consider adding game birds for better hunting.

Rights of Way & Realty

- Pursue access across the Lake Pleasant Regional Park for long distance trails.
- Pursue access across state and private lands to minimize the need for new routes to bypass these lands.
- Partner with Arizona Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition to pursue legal access as necessary.
- Add old roads on topographical maps into the system for later use.
- Purchase the "Gillette" private property in holding and make it a camp/picnic area.
- Require key access to the area from I-17

Education, Outreach, Administration & Enforcement

- Work with public volunteer groups to educate public and clean/improve the area.
- Unsafe shooting is better addressed through education and enforcement, change the philosophy to do this.
- Allow OHV groups to adopt/sponsor areas/sites for monitoring and care.
- Allow shooting site S-28 to be adopted by the Honeywell Sportsmen.
- Communications need improvement via local cell tower.
- Maintain kiosks with paper targets for users.
- Ensure safety on Black Canyon Trail.
- Enforcement and regulation must become a priority -- More patrols by rangers.
- Ensure enforcement of dumping/littering laws.
- Name the 4X4 Trails on a map
- Work with Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and the Department of Public Safety to conduct sweeps of shooting users.

- Adopt an enforcement plan. First offense leads to a ticket. Second office leads to banishment from area.
- Allow hunting of nuisance Burros.
- Consider a reasonably-priced use permit
- Consider a uniform access pass for recreation areas.
- Consider trail use rotation.
- Include water stations for recreationalists

FACILITIES

- Create more camping areas along the Agua Fria River.
- Mark trailheads and roads
- Ensure sufficient signage to avoid getting lost.
- For Rock Crawling sites, create a gatekeeper or limiter device to restrict access by smaller vehicles.
- Include signage indicating where private lands occur.
- Ensure training lot is located away from target shooting.
- Signage with jurisdictional safety emergency contact numbers
- Add a helipad to the Table Mesa planning area.
- Add an airstrip to Table Mesa planning area
- Create a gold panning area in Agua Fria River.
- Erect a bridge over the Agua Fria River to protect it while allowing access to the other side.
- Add camp sites near shooting areas.
- Add trash receptacles, enforce their use, and remove trash.

1.7 CONFORMANCE

1.7.1 LAND USE PLAN

The BLM's planning process is governed by Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) (43 USC 1711) and 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1600, which governs the administrative review process for most of BLM's decisions. Land use plans ensure that BLM-administered public lands are managed in accordance with the intent of Congress as stated in FLPMA and under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. As required by FLPMA, public lands must be managed in a manner that protects the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource, and archaeological values; that, where appropriate, preserves and protects certain public lands in their natural condition and provides food and habitat for fish and wildlife and domestic animals; and that provides for outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use by encouraging collaboration and public participation throughout the planning process. In addition, public lands must be managed to

help meet the nation's needs for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber from public lands.

Land use plans are the main mechanism for guiding BLM's activities to achieve the mission and goals outlined in the BLM's Strategic Plan (BLM 2000). BLM currently manages the Table Mesa RMZ under the *Bradshaw-Harquahala Approved Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision* (2010).

The *Bradshaw-Harquahala ARMP/ROD* contains Desired Future Conditions for several resources and resource uses within the Black Canyon SRMA and the Table Mesa RMZ. These Desired Future Conditions drive management direction and serve as a basis for the Plan for Recreation, Lands and Realty, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Wilderness Characteristics, Visual Resources, Rangeland Management, Travel Management, and Mineral Resource Management. A brief summary of some of these resources is presented below.

Black Canyon SRMA Desired Future Conditions

- Preserve scenic and open space values and provide an array of public opportunities for trail-based recreation within diverse and healthy landscapes.
- Provide an assortment of intensively managed, intensively used trail-based motorized and non-motorized recreation uses within the SRMA. Emphasize motorized and non-motorized trail links east and west of I-17, links with Prescott and Tonto National Forests, Lake Pleasant Regional Park, the Castle Hot Springs area, the Great Western Trail, and connections to all communities.
- Manage the recreation area to function as an open space gateway into Maricopa County from the north, managed for viewsheds and long-range vistas of valleys, hills, and the Bradshaw Mountains. Connect the Maricopa County Park System with a regional non-motorized trail system between Lake Pleasant Regional Park, the Cave Creek Recreation Area, and the Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area.
- Facilitate preserving a scenic open space corridor along I-17 between Yavapai and Maricopa Counties, welcoming visitors to Maricopa County and promoting area tourism.
- Maintain recreation settings identified through inventory as shown on the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (see Map 3-11 of the *Bradshaw-Harquahala PRMP/FEIS*), except where otherwise stipulated in prescriptions of other allocations.
- Secure more law enforcement and public user group involvement as a high priority to promote environmentally responsible recreation, discourage vandalism, protect the public, and protect the public investment in public lands.

Table Mesa RMZ Desired Future Conditions

- Manage for intensive motorized single and two-track routes and general motorized recreation.
- Manage activities for acceptable dust control and compatibility with neighboring communities and landowners.
- Maintain semi-primitive motorized and roaded-natural settings. Users will occasionally be concentrated in developed sites, but recreation use will generally be dispersed.
- Construct and maintain facilities to meet the basic needs of visitors and to enhance resource protection. Maintain clear yet nonintrusive signing in most of the RMZ.

Black Canyon Hiking and Equestrian Trails RMZ Desired Future Conditions

- Design and build new trail segments with community and citizen participation.
- Provide high-quality non-motorized recreation experiences for hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers through the Black Canyon corridor.
- Incorporate loops, links, and trailheads. Link the communities of Black Canyon City, New River, Anthem, and Phoenix.

Long distance route corridors

- Complete the designation of long distance route corridors to establish the importance of such routes for further planning and connectivity with surrounding towns and jurisdictions.

Lands & Realty

The Table Mesa RMZ also contains a utility corridor with both electrical power lines and natural gas pipelines. The corridor flanks the eastern boundary of the RMZ and most users pass through the corridor to access recreation sites from the Table Mesa Road exit of I-17. Future maintenance of this corridor is required.

Biological Resources

The Table Mesa RMZ supports several important wildlife habitats, including riparian zones along the Agua Fria River and desert tortoise habitat. The RMP makes specific provisions for the protection of the habitat for special status species such as desert tortoise and yellow-billed cuckoo. The RMP also outlines goals of protecting other priority habitats for game species, other special status species, birds of conservation concern, and raptors. Specific RMP decisions are as follows: TE- 1,2,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14; WF- 1,7,16,18,20; VM -1; LH- 1,2,3; WS- 1; TM -21, 27.

Cultural Resources

The Black Canyon Corridor Special Cultural Resource Management Area (SCRMA) exists within the RMZ. This management area includes diverse types of prehistoric archaeological sites, along

with sites associated with historic ranching and mining. The historic Black Canyon Sheep Driveway passed through the area. The *Bradshaw-Harquahala ARMP/ROD* emphasizes the continued monitoring and protection of sites in the SCRMA, and it allows for interpretive development at selected sites as identified. Tribal consultation for protection of cultural resources has occurred and will continue to occur for the SCRMA.

OTHER SPECIAL RECREATION USES – BLACK CANYON HIKING AND EQUESTRIAN TRAILS RMZ

The Black Canyon Trail (a *National Recreation Trail*) RMZ bisects the Table Mesa RMZ. The Black Canyon Trail RMZ shares many of the Desired Future Conditions with the Table Mesa RMZ. The Recreation Area Management Plan for the Table Mesa RMZ must ensure that the Black Canyon Trail RMZ can be successfully managed to meet its prescribed DFCs.

1.7.2 OTHER LAWS, REGULATIONS, POLICIES & PROGRAM GUIDANCE

- Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
- Clean Water Act of 1977
- Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, May 24, 1977.
- Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, May 24, 1977
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934, as amended
- Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended
- Clean Air Act of 1963, as amended
- Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, February 11, 1994
- Executive Order 13007, Indian Sacred Sites, 1996
- Executive Order 13186, Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds, January 10, 2001
- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (1990)
- 43CFR9268 Law Enforcement – Recreation Programs
- BLM Instruction Memorandum 2006-173, *Implementation of Roads and Trails Terminology Report*
- BLM Instruction Memorandum 2008-174, Road Maintenance Agreements

- BLM Instruction Memorandum 2008-074, *Methods for Authorizing Shooting Ranges and Areas on Public Lands*
- BLM Instruction Memorandum 2008-014, *Clarification of Guidance and Integration of Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management Planning into the Land Use Planning*
- BLM Instruction Memorandum 2008-091, Guidance for Signing When Implementing Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management Planning
- BLM Instruction Memorandum 2007-041, Federal Lands Hunting, Fishing and Shooting Sports Roundtable Memorandum of Understanding
- BLM Instruction memorandum 2007-030, *Clarification of Cultural Resource Considerations for Off-highway Vehicle(OHV) Designation and Travel Management*
- BLM Instruction Memorandum AZ2009-017, *State Specific Guidance for Implementation of the Arizona Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Law*
- Arizona Revised Statute Title 49 sections 400-500 governing air quality
- Memos of communication between Arizona State Land Department and Arizona State Office BLM regarding access across state trust lands.

1.8 Purpose and Need for the Plan and Decision to be Made

The purpose of the Table Mesa RMZ Recreation Area Management Plan is to identify, promote, and establish compatible recreation use of the RMZ, while protecting natural resources, cultural resources, and public safety.

Currently, no formal management framework exists for the Table Mesa RMZ. Public demand for recreational uses is on the rise, use conflict is increasing, ecosystem health is affected, and public safety is of concern. Given the Desired Future Conditions for recreation and other resources located within the planning area, a holistic management framework is needed to respond to increased use, to ensure that the objectives of two co-located RMZs are met, and to protect valuable cultural and natural resources.

The BLM will decide whether or not to implement the Table Mesa Recreation and Travel Management Plan.

2 Proposed Action and Alternatives

Several alternatives were considered and refined throughout the planning process. Given the extensive period allotted for public scoping and outreach on this plan, only two alternatives will be considered in detail and include the No Action Alternative and the Plan. Alternatives considered but eliminated from detailed analysis are also discussed in this chapter.

2.1 Proposed Recreation and Travel Management Plan

The plan is categorized by management actions related to routes, technical vehicle sites, facilities, shooting area buffer closures, and implementation. Each of these components is discussed in detail in the following sections.

2.1.1 ROUTES

A comprehensive route system is sought in this plan. The route system has been designed to create loop trails, maximize recreation while protecting resources, and concentrate much of the trail-based recreation activity in a hub north of Table Mesa Road. To meet these design goals, some routes identified during the route inventory are designated as closed or are reserved for administrative or permitted access only. Other routes remain open and other new routes are proposed. Routes include new primitive roads, new motorized single-track trails, new non-motorized single track trails for mountain bikes, and non-motorized trails. Table 1 and Table 2 summarize basic route information in this plan. Detailed designation information for each route is contained in Appendix E: Route Designations Table & Maps.

TABLE 1: EXISTING ROUTES SUMMARY

Description of Existing Routes	Miles
Total Inventoried Routes in RMZ ***Includes All routes, both motorized and non-motorized***	***91.8***
Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Roads Open to All Use	73.3
Primary, Secondary or Tertiary Roads Closed to All Use	0
Primary, Secondary or Tertiary Roads Limited to Administrative/Permitted Use	0
Trails Limited to Non-Motorized Use *Includes Black Canyon Trail and its side loop trails*	18.5

TABLE 2: FINAL ROUTE DESIGNATION FOR EXISTING AND NEW ROUTES

Description of Final Route Designation	Miles
Total Miles of Roads, Primitive Roads and Trails Being Designated	***85.5***
Roads Open to All Uses	9.8
Primitive Roads Open to All Uses	32.7
Primitive Roads Limited to Administrative/Permitted Uses Only	5.8
Trails Limited to Non-motorized Use	20.5
New Primitive Roads Open to All Uses	3.6
New Motorized Trails (Open to all vehicles 24” wide or less)	7.5
New Non-Motorized Trails	5.6

Specific route information for the plan, such as asset types, functional classes, and maintenance intensities, is discussed in the following sections.

2.1.1.1 Asset Types

BLM classifies its routes as roads, primitive roads, or trails.

Roads are linear routes managed for use by low clearance vehicles having four or more wheels, and are maintained for regular and continuous use. Roads that are located within the RMZ and under BLM management include the *Table Mesa Road*, *Little Pan Mine Road* and the *AZCO Mine Road*. Table Mesa Road is also a county road and is regularly maintained by Maricopa County. Improvements to these roads will be made to ensure that both roads meet requirements of high-intensity usage and provide year-round access to high-clearance vehicles, RVs and trailers. Both roads will be open to unlicensed vehicles.

- *Table Mesa Road*
  Improvements will include surface-hardening or gravel overlay to aid in dust suppression, and drainage management, while maintaining a natural appearance. Primary maintenance will be conducted by Maricopa County Department of Transportation. Dry Season passage of vehicles towing trailers with a total vehicle length of 45 feet is the desired condition. Culverts may be installed at major wash crossings to improve wet-weather safety and reduce maintenance needs between rain events. This BLM road will be maintained at a Maintenance Intensity level 3 or comparable standard by Maricopa County as allowed by their right-of-way.
- *Little Pan Mine Road*
  Improvements will include surface-hardening, dust suppression, and drainage management, while maintaining a natural appearance. On the mountain pass leading to the Agua Fria River, a concrete apron, or similar hardening, may be added to slopes greater than 10% to prevent erosion and improve drivability. Dry season passage of vehicles towing trailers with a total vehicle length of 45 feet is the desired condition. This BLM road will be maintained at a Maintenance Intensity level 3.
- *AZCO Mine Road*
  Improvements will include grading, dust suppression, or surface hardening on the Maricopa County side of the road. The road may be improved with gravel or larger aggregate for dust control. Arizona Department of Transportation will be the primary road manager between Table Mesa road and private land at T8E, R2E Sections 27 NW1/4, SW1/4, NW1/4. BLM will assume primary maintenance of the road from approximately T8N R2E Sec 27 NW1/4, SW1/4 and Sec28 NE1/4, S1/2 to the Agua Fria River in Maricopa County. West of the Agua Fria River in Yavapai County, BLM will

assume primary maintenance responsibility. This BLM road will be maintained at a Maintenance Intensity level 3.

Primitive Roads are linear routes managed for use by four-wheel drive or high-clearance vehicles. They do not normally meet BLM design standards and are existing unimproved routes. They are typically eight to ten ft wide and accommodate full size 4WD vehicles. They will generally accommodate single lane travel, with passing turnouts or widening as needed. They may be passable by passenger car, but rough between many spots. Typically these are routes with a Local or Resource functional class, and Level 1 maintenance intensity. State vehicle safety and equipment laws apply to motor vehicle use on these routes. Licensing for street use is generally not required. Primitive roads will be open to all motorized vehicle use year-round.

Trails are linear routes managed for human-powered, stock, or off-highway vehicle forms of transportation or for historical or heritage values. Trails are not generally managed for use by four-wheel drive or high-clearance vehicles. They include locally known non-motorized trails, and very rough roads intended to be kept in that condition. Special use restrictions may be established for these routes to require minimum equipment standards following public notification via Federal Register Notice. Physical barriers or restrictive devices and signing may be installed. Monitoring will be carried out to detect change and take corrective action. Trails will be open year round.

The asset type summary for the plan is shown in Table 3, and for each route in Appendix D. While Tables 1 and 2 discuss general route information, Table 3 specifically outlines asset types. Transportation asset definitions are in accordance with *BLM Instruction Memorandum 2006-173- Implementation of Roads and Trails Terminology Report.*

TABLE 3: ASSET TYPE SUMMARY

ASSET TYPE	DESIGNATION	MILES	TOTAL MILES
Road	Open	9.8	
	Closed	0	
	Limited	0	9.8
Primitive Road	Open	32.7	
	Closed	22.9	
	Limited Admin	5.8	65.0
	New	3.6	
Trail	Open Non-Motor (2)	20.5	
	Closed	0	
	New Non-Motor (2)	5.6	33.6
	New Motor (3)	7.5	

Total	108.4

2.1.1.2 Functional Class

Functional classes indicate the relative importance of a route's transportation and access functions, and are the basis for geometric design standards and maintenance guidelines. The functional classifications are determined according to guidance in *BLM Manual 9113 Roads*. Functional class is defined by collector roads, local roads, and resource roads.

Collector Roads are the highest standard of BLM road. They provide primary access to large blocks of land and connect with or are extensions of a public road system. Collector roads accommodate mixed traffic and serve many uses. They generally receive the highest volume of traffic within the BLM road system. User cost, safety, comfort, and travel time are primary road management considerations. Collector roads usually require application of the highest standards used by BLM. As a result, they have the potential for creating substantial environmental impacts and often require complex mitigation procedures.

Local Roads normally serve a smaller area than collector roads and connect to collector roads or public road systems. Local roads receive lower volumes, carry fewer traffic types, and generally serve fewer users. User cost, comfort, and travel time are secondary to construction and maintenance cost considerations. Low volume local roads in mountainous terrain, where operating speed is reduced by effort of terrain, may be single land roads with turnouts.

Resource Roads are usually spur roads that provide point access and connect to local or collector roads. They carry very low volume and accommodate only one or two types of uses. Use restrictions are applied to prevent conflicts between users needing the road and users attracted to the road. The location and design of these roads are governed by environmental compatibility and minimizing BLM costs, with minimal consideration for user cost, comfort, or travel time.

The proposed functional class designations summary is shown on the table below, and for each route in Appendix D. Most of the routes in the planning area are designated as Resource Roads, unpaved, single lane, with very low traffic volume (Average Daily Traffic $\leq$150 vehicle passes) and very low traffic speeds.

TABLE 4: PROPOSED FUNCTIONAL CLASSES -- MILEAGE SUMMARY

FUNCTIONAL CLASS	MILES
Collector	0
Local	9.8
Resource	42.1
None (Decommission or Trails)	56.5
Total	108.4

2.1.1.3 Maintenance Intensities

No existing BLM transportation assets are presently identified for the Table Mesa planning area and maintenance on roads and trails over the past ten years has been minimal. Authorized users (mineral materials operations, grazing permits, utilities) also perform intermittent road maintenance on routes needed for their permitted activities.

Maintenance intensity classes help direct maintenance work to needs based on route importance, route conditions, access objectives, or resource conditions on adjacent lands. Maintenance intensity is broken down into four classes, discussed below.

Level 0 routes are existing routes that will no longer be maintained and no longer be declared a route. Routes identified as Level 0 are identified for removal from the transportation system entirely.

Level 1 routes require minimum (low intensity) maintenance to protect adjacent lands and resource values. These roads may be impassable for extended periods of time

Level 3 routes require more moderate maintenance due to low volume use (such as seasonal or year-round for commercial, recreation, or administrative access). Maintenance intensities may not provide year-round access but are intended to provide resources appropriate to maintain a usable route for most of the year.

Level 5 routes require high (maximum) maintenance due to year-round needs, high-volume traffic, or significant use. Level 5 designation may also include routes identified through management objectives are requiring high intensities of maintenance or to be maintained open on a year-round basis.

The proposed maintenance intensity class summary is shown in Table 5 and for each route in Appendix E. These will provide the basis for updating the BLM Facility Asset Maintenance System (FAMS) database for the project area. Under BLM policy, transportation maintenance and repairs may be conducted on Bureau routes on a case by case basis depending on need and following NEPA analysis.

Table 5: Maintenance Intensities

Maintenance Intensity	Total Miles
Level 5	0
Level 3 (Roads)	9.8
Level 1 (Primitive roads/Trails)	75.7
Level 0 (Decommission)	22.9
Total	108.4

2.1.1.4 Access Vehicle Type

The typical vehicle for a given route largely dictates the physical characteristics required for a route to be passable by that vehicle and others with similar or lesser requirements. The route width, roughness, grade, curve radius, side clearance, and associated physical parameters vary depending on the type of access vehicle and the use desired for a route. Presently, nearly all the existing routes on public land are primitive roads, unimproved, receive very low volume, and require very low speed.

Typical vehicles

Vehicles used on the travel routes (all three asset categories) in the planning area include haul trucks; motor homes; passenger cars; high-clearance 2WD, 4WD, ATV<50", UTV>50" vehicles; trail motorcycles; extreme 4WD vehicles; mountain bikes; riding horses; and foot hikers.

Road Condition and Design Standards and Guidelines

Standards exist for BLM roads based on average daily traffic, functional classification and terrain type and can be found in *BLM Manual 9113 - Roads*. Standards also exist for trails based on hiking and equestrian user needs which are found in *BLM Manual 9114 - Trails*. No geometric standards or guidelines exist for BLM primitive roads. For the purposes of managing dust, road and trail maintenance will emphasize improving drainage so that silt does not accumulate on the tread. Additionally, 1"-2" diameter gravel may be applied to problem areas where dust generation is especially high. Liquid dust suppressants will be applied as short term measures to improve air quality.

Speed And Dust Management

Speed limits may be enacted through a supplemental rule making process, if consultation with the Maricopa County Environmental Quality Division determines that doing so would improve air quality. Speed Limit Recommendation signs will be placed where doing so would improve public safety and air quality.

Driving to create excessive dust through spin turns, also known as doughnuts, is prohibited. This prohibition is deemed necessary to improve air quality in Maricopa County. Future limitations

on driving vehicles, such as, but not limited to, speed limitations could be necessary and would be implemented through a supplemental rule making process.

Figure 3 displays the network of open roads, primitive roads and trails, approved new primitive roads and trails and the location of routes to be closed and rehabilitated.

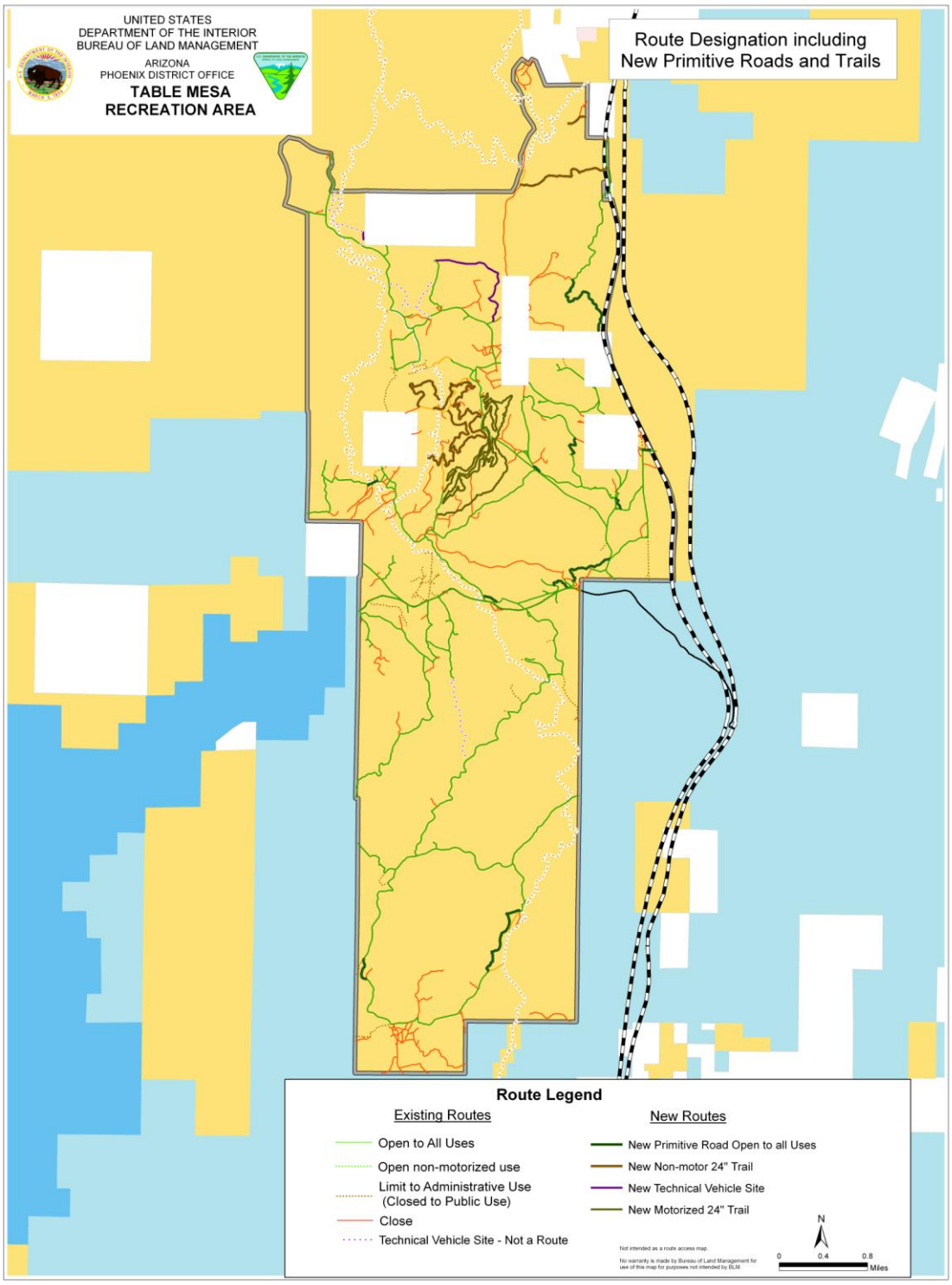

FIGURE 3: ROUTE DESIGNATION INCLUDING NEW PRIMITIVE ROADS AND TRAILS

Figure 4 displays the designation of route asset and maintenance intensity. Assets will be entered into the BLM Facility and Asset Management System (FAMS) for continued management.

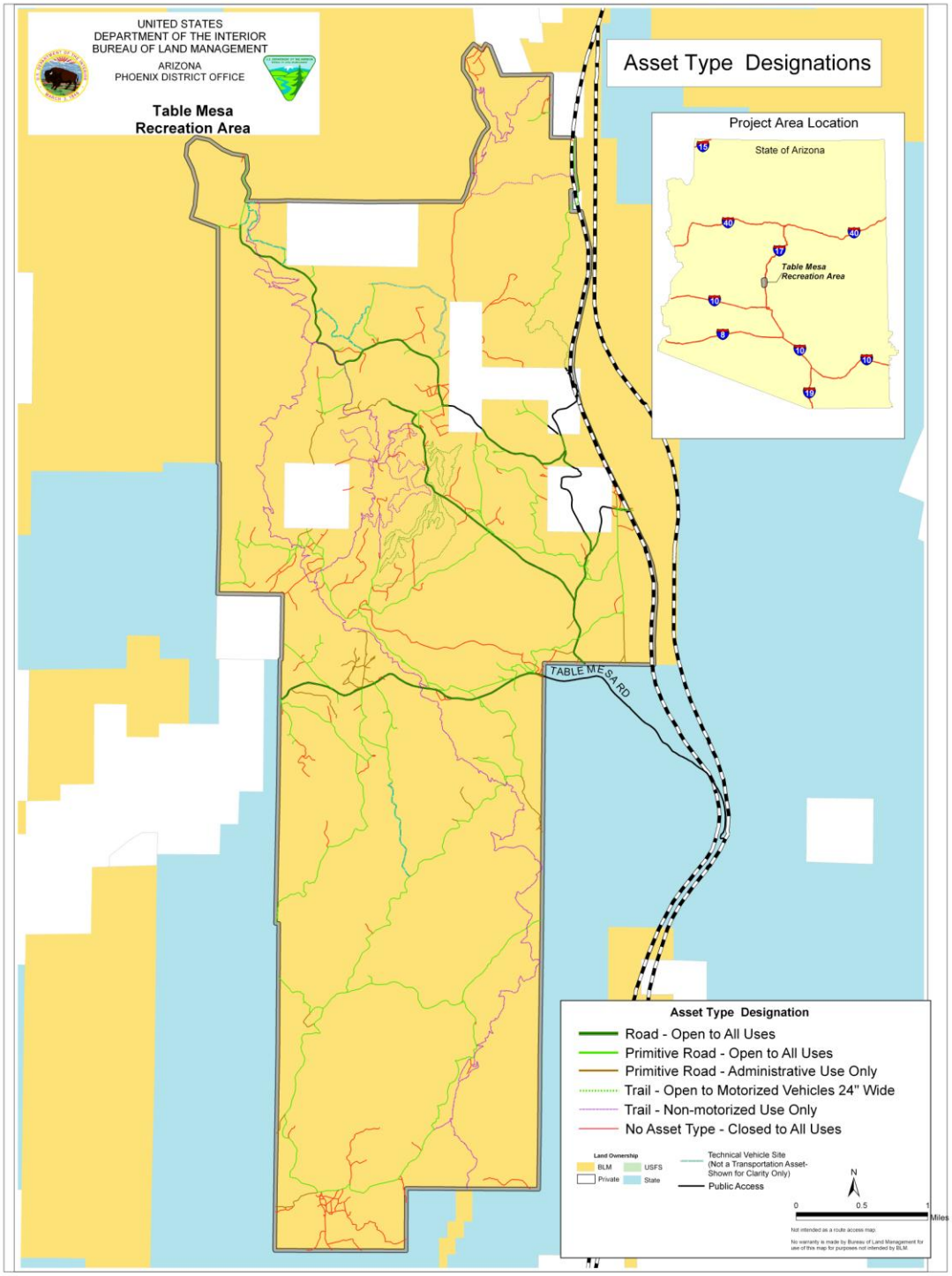

FIGURE 4: LINEAR ASSET TYPE AND ASSOCIATED MAINTENANCE INTENSITY

Figure 5 (Table Mesa North) and Figure 6 (Table Mesa South) displays the official final route designation. The two public use maps may change slightly prior to printing to facilitate understanding and communicate specific messages about the area. The route numbers and allowable uses will remain unchanged.

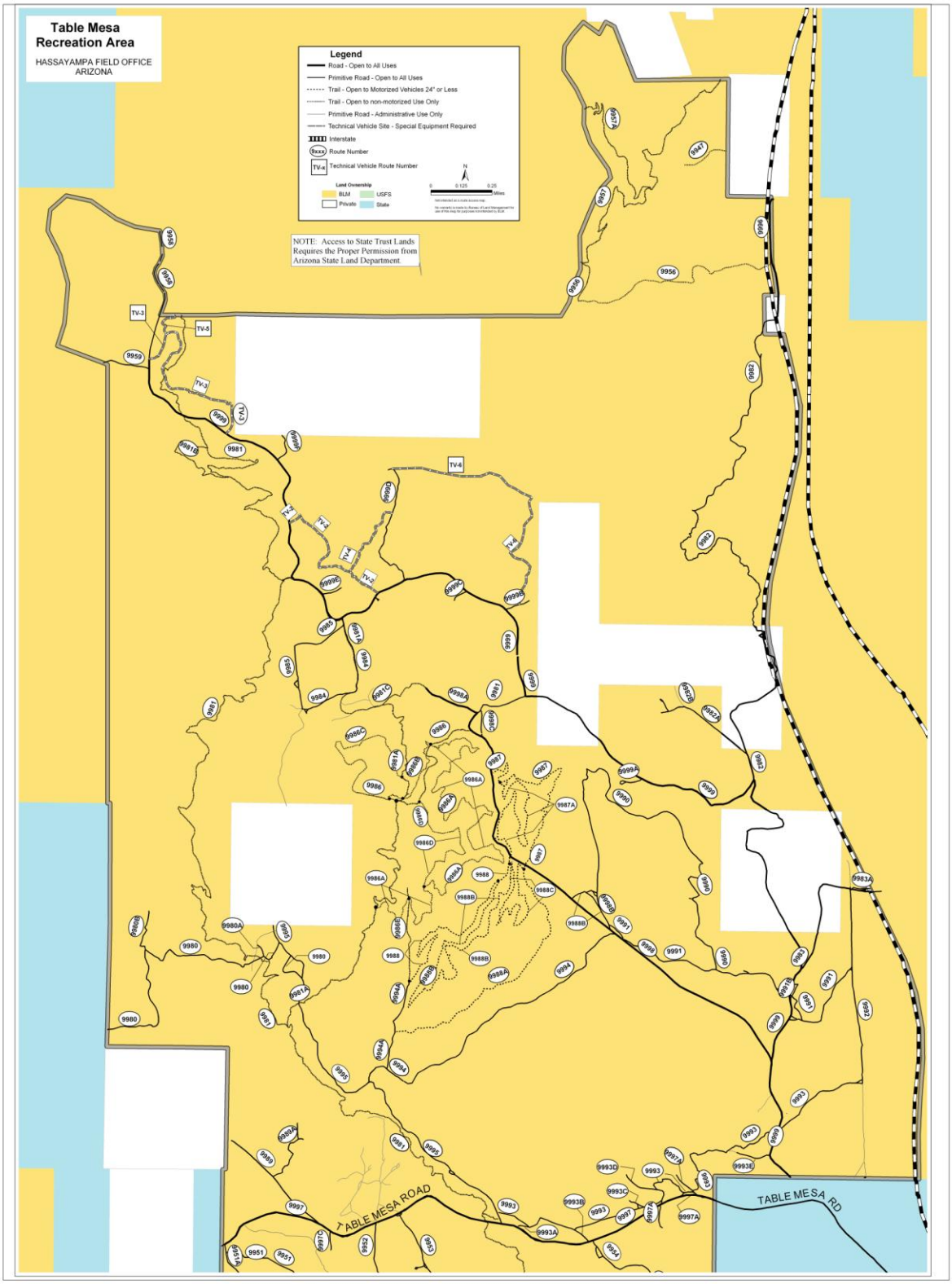

FIGURE 5: TABLE MESA NORTH FINAL ROUTE DESIGNATION

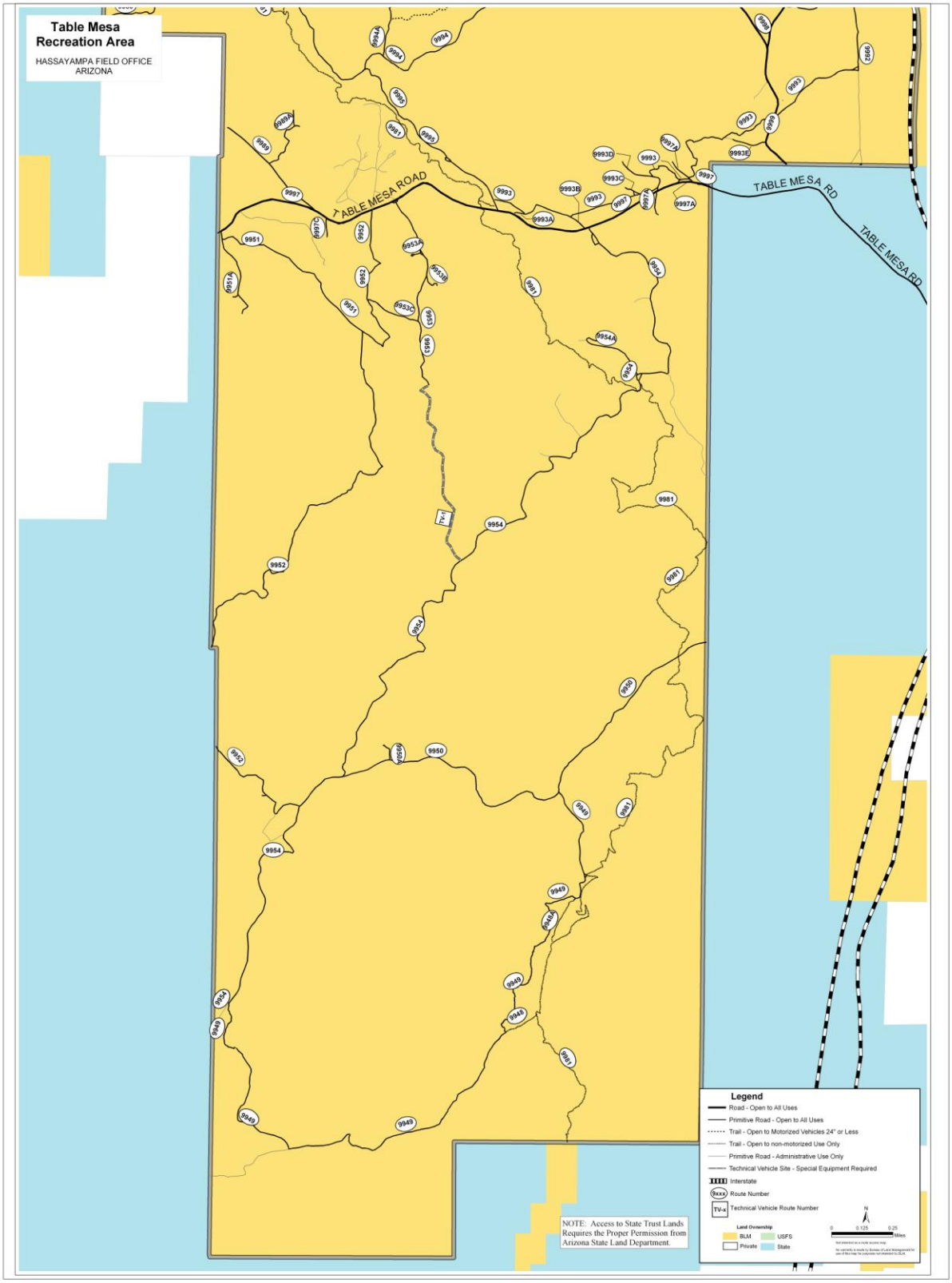

FIGURE 6: TABLE MESA SOUTH FINAL ROUTE DESIGNATION

2.1.2 Technical Vehicle Sites

Technical Vehicle Sites, also known as Rock Crawling 4wd trails, are designated as sites, rather than routes. A recreation site plan will be created for each site. Rock Crawling sites within the Table Mesa RMZ will have special rules of use, may contain vehicle limiter devices, and may require limited/permitted use. The proposed plan includes 1.1 miles of new technical vehicle sites, closure of 1.4 miles of existing sites. Table 6 demonstrates the proposed plan mileage for rock crawling/technical vehicle sites.

TABLE 6: ROCK CRAWLING / TECHNICAL VEHICLE SITES

Open Technical Vehicle Sites	2.7 Miles
Closed Technical Vehicle Sites	1.4 Miles
Proposed new Technical Vehicle Sites	1.1 Miles

2.1.3 Facilities

To support multiple recreation uses, this plan proposes several new facilities, including campsites, staging areas, protective fencing, barriers, information kiosks, administrative gates, a nature trail, and development of the Black Canyon Trail Trailhead. Site-specific designs will be developed to avoid or mitigate impact to natural and cultural resources. Specific descriptions of each facility can be found in Table 7.

TABLE 7: PROPOSED FACILITIES

Facility	Facility Description
F-1	**Campsite** Designated camping locations and camping length of stay limits (14 days) would be developed as needed for the following purposes: • protecting resources • ensuring visitor safety • avoiding social conflicts • improving recreation experiences • increasing recreation opportunities Other Characteristics include:

Facility	Facility Description
	• fire pan requirement for campfires • requirement to use only firewood without nails • consider vendor applications for firewood sales • campsite cleanup requirements including placement of campfire ashes in provided bins • no water or toilet facilities provided • flat areas for small group camping • dust suppression or gravel to reduce dust on upper camp area Site-specific rules (such as quiet hours, pet limitations, etc.) may be addressed through Supplemental Rule Making Process.
F-2	**Protective Fence** Protective fencing will be erected to prevent travel from Route 12W into the Riparian zone of the Agua Fria River. This is to ensure conformance with the Land Health Standards and wildlife habitat.
F-3	**Campsite** Designated camping locations and camping length of stay limits (long- and short-term) would be developed as needed for the following purposes (refer to F-1): • protecting resources • ensuring visitor safety • avoiding social conflicts • improving recreation experiences • increasing recreation opportunities • improving group/partner permit opportunities
F-4	**Black Canyon Trail Trailhead** The trailhead will include a parking area (with dust control to comply with PM10 regulations). The new trailhead will accommodate up to thirty cars. Trash barrels may be provided if area partnerships can be developed to defray costs. A vault toilet will be provided.
F-5	**Information Kiosk** Kiosk to include information such as map of area, emergency contact information, area rules of use, recreation etiquette, etc.
F-6	**Information Kiosk** Kiosk to include information such as map of area, emergency contact information,

Facility	Facility Description
	area rules of use, recreation etiquette, and other important messages.
F-7	**Protective Fence** Protective fencing will be erected to prevent travel from Route 16H into the Riparian zone of the Agua Fria River. This is to ensure that vehicles do not traverse the riparian zone and to ensure conformance with the Land Health Standards and wildlife habitat established in the *Bradshaw-Harquahala ARMP/ROD.*
F-8	**Two Group Campsites- Old AZCO mine** Designated camping locations and camping length of stay limits (14 days) would be developed as needed for the following purposes: • protecting resources • ensuring visitor safety • avoiding social conflicts • improving recreation experiences in an undeveloped setting • increasing recreation opportunities Other Characteristics would include: • flat areas for small groups to camp together • camp fire allowance requiring fire pan use and using dead and down wood only
F-9	**Campsite** Designated camping locations and camping length of stay limits (long- and short-term) would be developed as needed for the following purposes: • protecting resources • ensuring visitor safety • avoiding social conflicts • improving recreation experiences • increasing recreation opportunities Site-specific rules (such as quiet hours, pet limitations, etc.) may be addressed through Supplemental Rule Making Process.

Facility	Facility Description
F-10	**Campsite/Staging Area** Designated camping locations and camping length of stay limits (14 days) would be established for the following purposes: • protecting resources, • ensuring visitor safety, • avoiding social conflicts, • improving recreation experiences, and • increasing recreation opportunities. • Could accommodate overflow from campsite/staging area located at F-11 Other characteristics of this campsite/staging area may include: • Development as an OHV-centered campsite/staging area to include Special Recreation Permits (SRP) for OHV events • Hardened surface • Enclosure via pipe rail fencing • Vault toilet • Camp host site • Dust mitigation measures will be applied Site-specific rules (such as quiet hours, pet limitations, etc.) may be addressed through Supplemental Rule Making Process.
F-11	**Campsite/Staging Area** Designated camping locations and camping length of stay limits (14 days) would be established for the following purposes: • protecting resources, • ensuring visitor safety, • avoiding social conflicts, • improving recreation experiences, and • increasing recreation opportunities. • Could accommodate overflow from campsite/staging area located at F-10 Other characteristics of this campsite/staging area may include: • Development of quiet recreation area with access to the Black Canyon Trail

Facility	Facility Description
	• Vault toilet • Camp host site Dust mitigation measures will be applied.
F-12	**Nature Trail** A short nature one-way or loop trail would exit from the Rock Springs Café area to BLM land. Trail would serve as a walking opportunity for a shorter experience on BLM land and could be developed in accordance with the Architectural Barriers Act/universal access requirements to increase accessibility. This trail would be developed in partnership with the land owners at the Rock Springs Café area.
F-13	**Staging Area** This staging area would be developed for OHV and equestrian access to areas to the south. It would provide access to the RMZ for Black Canyon City residents and be managed for day use. • Wire perimeter fence • Single panel information kiosk • Dust suppressant or gravel for Maricopa county dust rule compliance
F-14	**OHV Training Area** The OHV training area will be developed to support a safe place to practice/learn safe OHV handling and driving. Speeds will be limited to under 20 MPH. This area may feature the following: • Direct access to OHV loop trails and primitive roads • Developed features such as drills to practice safe OHV handling • A permitted *All Terrain Vehicle Safety Institute* (ASI) training site • Dust abatement • Protective Fencing for beginners and children
F-15	**Protective Fence** Protective fencing would be erected to prevent OHV use on closed Routes 22AAc, 22N, 22V, 22M, and 22AAA. Doing so will limit access to closed routes, including the Black Canyon Trail; encourage OHV enthusiasts to enter the Table Mesa Recreation Management Zone from the main portal at Table Mesa Road, thereby controlling unmanaged growth of OHV routes along the southern boundary of the Table Mesa Recreation Management Zone; and ensure conformance with the Land Health Standards and wildlife habitat goals in the RMP.

Facility	Facility Description
F-16	**Administrative Gate** This gate would limit access via Route 20 to a private land in-holding within the Table Mesa Recreation Management Zone. Access would be granted for administrative purposes and to permitted parties.
F-17	**Barrier** These barriers would prevent access via Route 13BB to private land in-holdings within the Table Mesa Recreation Management Zone. Barriers may feature: • Concrete bollards with break-away cable • Fence railing • Break-away water gaps
F-18	**Horseshoe Bar Trailhead** The trailhead will include a parking area with dust control to comply with Maricopa county dust regulations. The new trailhead will accommodate up to 15 cars and will not have water or restroom facilities. Trash barrels may be provided if area partnerships can be developed to defray costs.

In addition to the facilities noted above, BLM will encourage the placement of trash receptacles in the Table Mesa planning area. BLM will encourage a partnership to maintain and manage these receptacles.

2.1.4 Recreational Target Shooting

Under this plan, recreational target shooting will be restricted in certain areas of the planning area. Target shooting is allowed on 6969 acres of the Table Mesa RMZ, provided that shooters abide by the guidelines in Appendix A. These areas are delineated by four buffer closures that include:

- A one-quarter mile buffer on either side of the National Black Canyon Trail
- A one-quarter mile buffer radius around all developed facility sites
- A one-quarter mile buffer at the western park boundary with the Lake Pleasant Regional Park boundary, where the park boundary is immediately adjacent to the Table Mesa RMZ
- A 200 foot buffer on either one or both sides of major travel routes.

Figure 7 shows the buffer zones in relations to the route system.

Recreational target shooting will be restricted to areas outside of the aforementioned buffer areas.

Other Rules/ Restrictions that apply to this area:

- No shooting from or into buffer areas.
- Target Shooters must abide by safe shooting standards in Appendix A.
- No target shooting from sunset to sunrise.

Hunting in the Table Mesa RMZ remains open, in accordance with the State of Arizona rules and regulations.

2.1.5 Natural areas

An area along the Agua Fria River will be managed as a natural area where riparian condition is in proper function condition (PFC). This area is adjacent to an old placer mine site at bend in the Agua Fria River called Horseshoe Bar. As shown on map "No Shooting Buffer Zones with Facility locations," the area follows the Agua Fria River and comprises 16 acres. A faint remnant of a mining road exists in the river flood plain, yet periodic flooding makes the development of any trails in this area unfeasible. The ease of access to the area makes it suitable for nature walks for school children, visitors to Black Canyon City and travelers seeking a respite from interstate travel. Careful monitoring of the riparian condition will ensure that standards are met and action taken to prevent further degradation if condition declines.

Figure 7 displays the no shooting zone buffers with facilities.

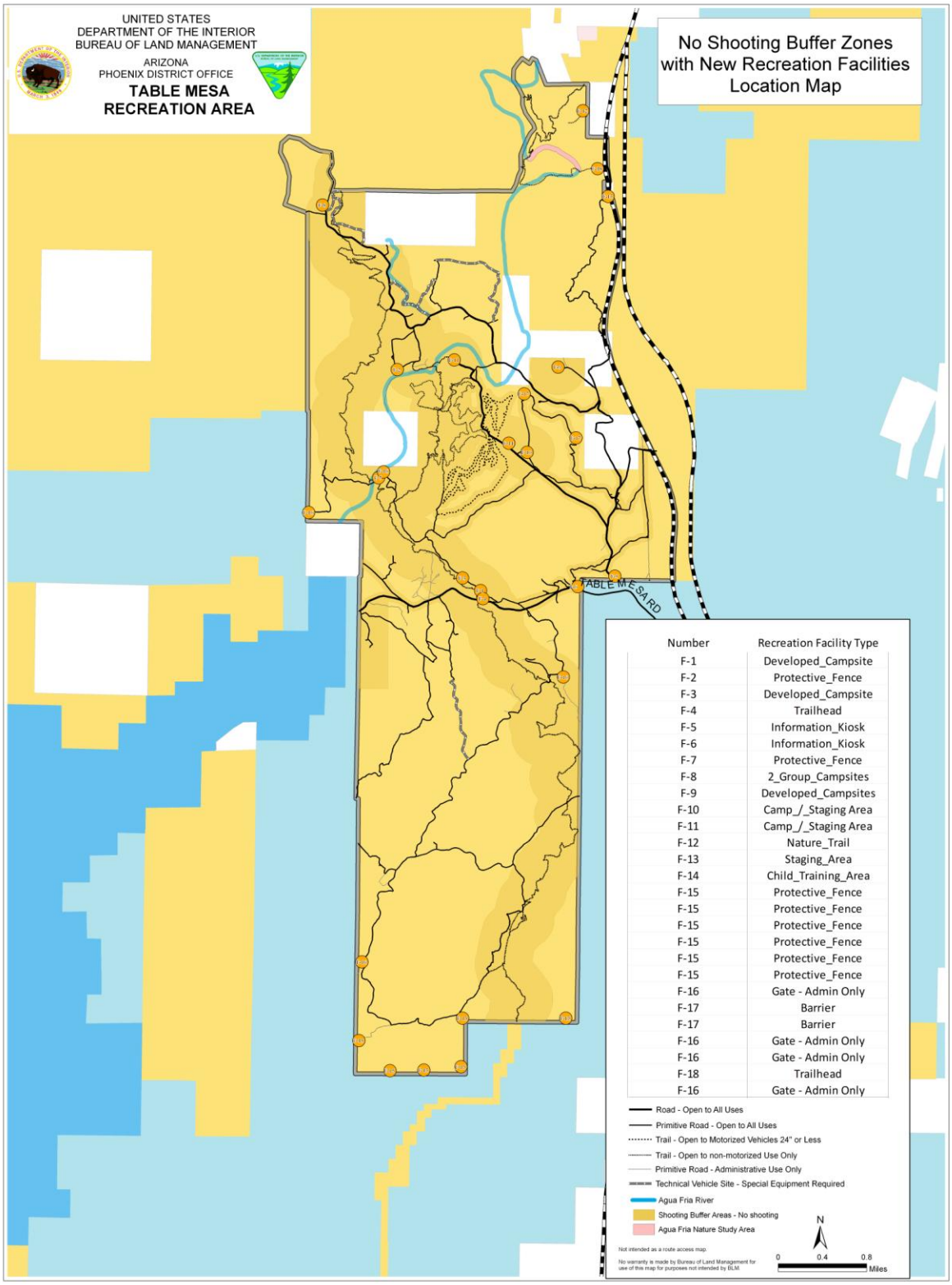

FIGURE 7: NO SHOOTING BUFFER ZONES WITH NEW RECREATION FACILITIES MAP

2.1.6 Land Owner Access / Access Needed

Private lands are contained within the planning boundary. High use recreation sites have been located to minimize effects to private land owners. Identifying existing rights-of-way to private lands and establishing the location for future rights-of-way issuance is one way to minimize the effects of recreation and recreational travel on land owners. Figure 8 shows the approved routes to private property that exist today or those that will be granted for future rights-of-way. All private property within the planning area either has legal access or is in progress to acquire access. Properties to the west of the planning area will be granted access using the identified roads on this map. Long distance corridors are identified on this map and are important to connecting large blocks of BLM managed land and also connecting to adjacent jurisdictions.

To ensure long term access to two routes south of Table Mesa Road, 9950 and 9952, the BLM should acquire access across Arizona State Trust Lands. BLM can directly secure access through easement or seek temporary access through a special land use permit, which conveys no rights, but would remove a requirement for the public to possess a state trust land recreation permit to use the connecting primitive roads on trust land. Access could be acquired by BLM or a partner of BLM.

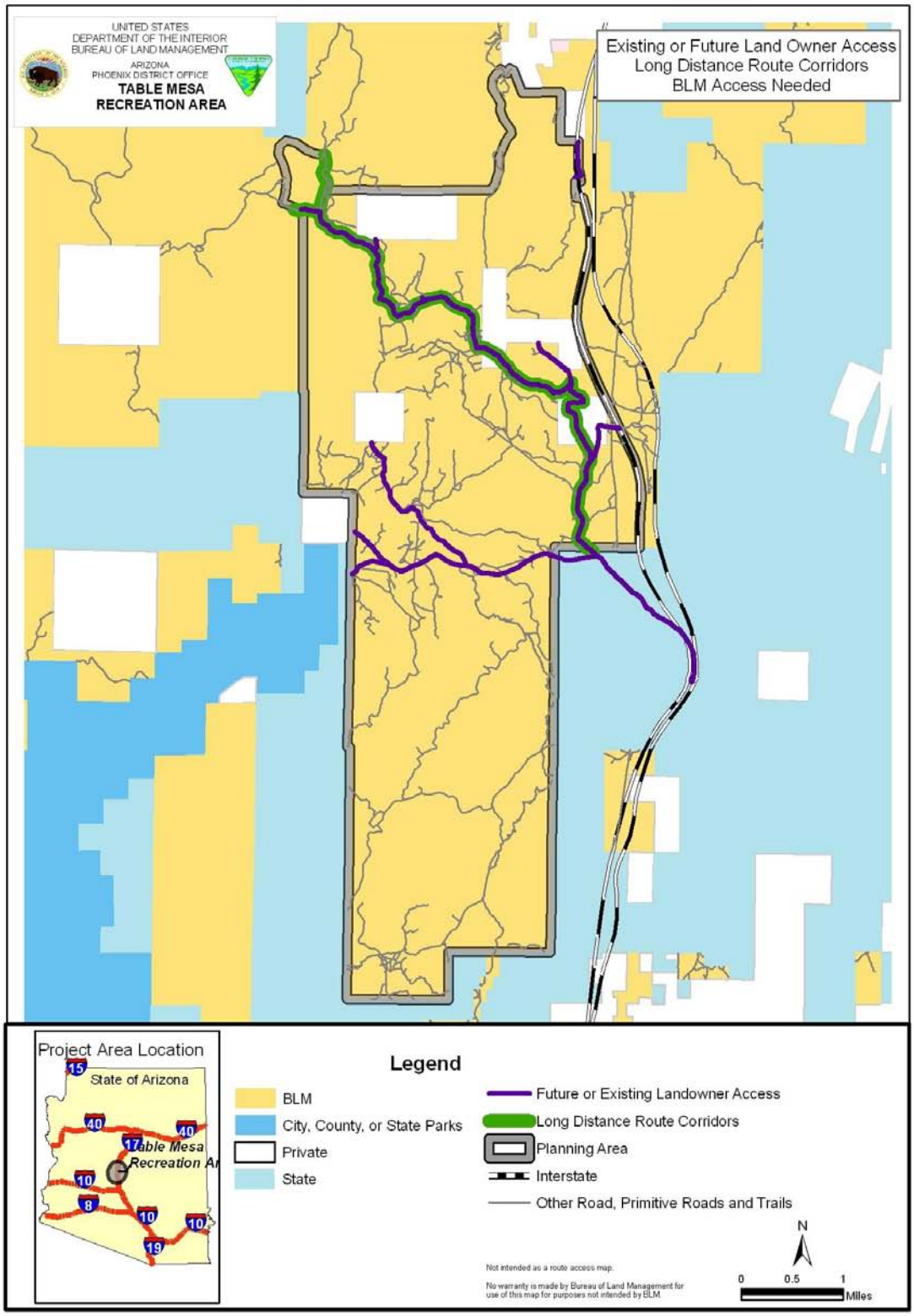

Figure 8: LAND OWNER ACCESS AND LONG DISTANCE ROUTE CORRIDOR MAP

2.1.7 Plan Implementation

2.1.7.1 Education

Currently the Table Mesa RMZ lacks a formalized educational program, though safety information and area maps can be obtained from the Hassayampa Field Office and online from the BLM website. Formal signage placed in the RMZ is often destroyed or vandalized. The BLM promotes education through the Arizona OHV Ambassador Program and through community events.

Because the Table Mesa RMZ will be managed for multiple recreation uses and because of the other resources in the area, messaging about accepted uses and rules of use is very important. In particular, information about routes and target shooting opportunities, along with closures, is imperative to communicate to users. Interpretive programs will be developed as a tool to help in this public education effort. These programs may include the natural and cultural history of the area, such as historic mining activities, historic stage coach routes, etc. These messages will be conveyed through the concepts of ethics, safety, and courtesy. Outdoor ethics such as *Tread Lightly* and *Leave No Trace* will be communicated.

Use levels are expected to be moderate to high and research supports the separation of uses. (Andereck, 2001). Since the minimization of conflict among the various recreation uses of BLM land is required, most motorized and non-motorized trail use will be separated to minimize the number of contacts between these recreational uses. Messaging on kiosks and literature encouraging tolerance and respect will be developed.

Interpretive and or interactive programs will be developed to foster appreciation of the natural, historic, and cultural elements of the area and to attract urban youth to the greater outdoors.

The Table Mesa educational and outreach program will be developed in collaboration with federal, state, and county entities, established and emerging organizations and programs, and with public participation.

The Field Office endeavors to use emerging technology and up-to-date communication methods to convey information and obtain public participation and stewardship in on-the-ground management and evaluation of the Plan.

Key messages to communicate

- Table Mesa is an area for multi recreational opportunities, enjoyed by varied users.
- The area promotes shared use and has some specific designations.
- Resource protection, land ethics are important in this area.
- The National Recreation Trail -- Black Canyon Trail – is a non-motorized trail and is buffered by a quarter mile zone in which recreational target shooting is prohibited.
- 61 percent of the area remains open to recreational shooting where it can be safely achieved for marksmen and other shooting enthusiasts.

Targeted Methods of Communication

- POD-casts including downloadable items such as: maps, land use ethics, rules, historic and cultural settings, maps, rules, air quality alerts, fire prevention restrictions, emergency announcements, etc.
- Electronic Kiosks: Including downloadable items such trail track logs, audio story telling for cultural, historic, natural interpretative information
- Web Video & Focus Surveys: produce interactive sites for user info and feedback to BLM
- Speakers Bureau
- School Presentations: promoting the BLM messages and outdoor multiple land uses, land ethics, leading to invitations for field tours.
- Website: updated regularly and designed to give viewers something new each time they view the page.
- Organized Tours: Regular/routine schedules for schools, local organizations, elected leaders, parent and teacher groups, etc. *Use inner city partners and events that already include minorities and new residents, gateway cities*
- Onsite Workshops: emphasizing urban youth activities in greater outdoors
- Public Service Announcements: via radio, TV, sports organizations, Friends, OHV, Shooting Roundtable, Equestrian, Black Canyon City organizations web sites and gateway facilities, etc.
- Media Field Trips
- Cable access (TV) shows: including Spanish speaking channels for maximum outreach
- Morning TV talk shows
- Marketing: Foreign media; travel channel, green TV; the Amazing Race, Animal, Discovery, etc.
- Exhibits
- Traditional Brochures and Guides
- Organized Education: Use new and alternate ASU sources (marketing, journalism, recreation), formalized law enforcement activities and non formal law enforcement peer to peer education, youth and outdoor organizations, etc.

In order to achieve the aforementioned outreach and education objectives, it is imperative to create sustainable partnerships with private groups and governmental organizations, such as: OHV dealerships, the AZ OHV Coalition, the Friends of Table Mesa Recreation Area, and other OHV and Shooting Sports enthusiasts, hiking and equestrian clubs, schools, media organizations, Az. Game & Fish, Maricopa County Parks, Maricopa and Yavapai County Sheriff departments, American Indian tribes, local utilities and private businesses that hold permits within or adjacent to Table Mesa, etc.

Financial resources for many outreach programs need to be identified. Moreover, it will be increasingly important to create an annual calendar of events and prioritize activities with the responsible personnel/organizations and the funding sources in order to ensure sustainability.

2.1.7.2 Enforcement

Currently, law enforcement coverage in the RMZ is provided by BLM Phoenix District Rangers. Enforcement actions are typically in response to complaints, and patrols are conducted on a periodic basis depending on priorities throughout the Phoenix District. Illegal activities have occurred within the RMZ in the past.

BLM Law enforcement patrol on public lands in the planning area is provided by HFO BLM Rangers stationed in the HFO Office, Maricopa and Yavapai County Sheriffs, Arizona Game and Fish Department and Arizona State Land Department trespass officers. The Maricopa County Sheriff also provides law enforcement on public lands in the area on a regular basis, primarily while patrolling the adjacent Lake Pleasant Regional Park or as a result of a call for service. Yavapai County provides occasional presence and their participation will be requested for specific operations. The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) provides enforcement related to hunting laws and off-highway vehicle use. Law enforcement concerns with public use in the area include accidents, DUI, firearm violations, cross country motorized vehicle use and creation of new routes and trails by visitors.

As with education, enforcement efforts can be multiplied through coordinated multi-jurisdictional management efforts. Educational and monitoring efforts by volunteer user groups can leverage formal law enforcement efforts. Volunteer user groups can educate users on rules and etiquette for the area.

Goals for a successful enforcement plan include:

- Increase the presence of BLM law enforcement staff and BLM law enforcement in the area. BLM park rangers will conduct high profile, routine patrols into the area to enforce laws and regulations. They may initiate emergency or law enforcement response simply by being first on-scene.
- Improve and expand interagency cooperation in the area
- Concentrate efforts on high use periods such as weekends and holidays
- Focus targeted enforcement in “hot spots”
- Increase enforcement capacity, including the use of new technology
- Support of volunteer efforts to educate public on rules and etiquette
- Expand interagency cooperation in the area.

- Encourage educational and monitoring efforts by volunteer user groups and citizen-based education groups, which can leverage formal law enforcement efforts. Volunteer user groups will educate users on rules and etiquette for the area.

Partnerships with private groups such as area OHV dealerships, the AZ OHV Coalition, the Friends of Table Mesa group, and other OHV and Shooting Sports enthusiasts groups will be encouraged to promote safe OHV use and safe shooting practices. Volunteer groups, such as the members of the OHV Ambassador Program, may assist with monitoring, public education and special events.

Cooperation with adjoining local and state jurisdictions is important for educating the public. Given its proximity to the Phoenix Metropolitan area and other recreation areas (such as the Lake Pleasant Regional Park and the Ben Avery Shooting range), concerted regional recreation messages/education can improve recreational expectations and outcomes at all sites.

Implementation of the plan may require installation of gates and barriers to prevent vehicle traffic in areas not designated for motorized travel. The location and design of gates and barriers will depend on site conditions where they are needed. Typically, gates will be made of steel and designed to be vandal resistant. Fencing may be used, including barb wire, post and cable, or other materials. Barriers or barricades may be temporary or permanent, and may be made of stone, boulders, concrete, steel or wood.

2.1.7.3 Signage

A signing plan map is shown in Figure 12. Presently, very little signing is found throughout the planning area; however some standard BLM signing is found at gates and several locations for special purposes. Various types of signs and markers will be installed according to current BLM policy and guidance for recreation and travel management signing. Signs will be placed along roads, primitive roads and trails, and will include:

- Area and public land identification
- Entry kiosks and informational kiosks
- Bulletin boards
- Route numbers and the designation status of a route.
- Shooting area closures
- Area map boards

Signing will be kept to the minimum necessary for visitor management and assistance and as a tool for resource protection, regulatory and informational purposes.

Initially, all routes will be signed at intersections, then every one-half mile beyond that and other points which may be confusing to visitors. Signing for shooting area buffer closures will be

placed at reasonable intervals to ensure that users understand where closures exist. Signing will be designed to provide the public with clear and correct information to avoid off-network travel, avoid shooting in buffered areas, and to prevent use conflict. In order to issue citations, law enforcement staff must be able to prove to a magistrate there was ample information readily available for the visitor to do the right thing. Through monitoring and ongoing public group input, strategies will be developed to constantly improve the effectiveness of signing.

Maintenance procedures and schedules will be developed for signs and markers. This will include anticipated replacement needs. A sign inventory and database will be created to facilitate tracking of sign location and maintenance. It is expected that during the first five years many signs will be removed or destroyed, and will be replaced or updated with a new communication or engineering technique.

FIGURE 9: ENTRY SIGNAGE & ROUTE MARKER EXAMPLES

Specific sign or communication/engineering may include:

- “Open” route signing and signage on “open” routes adjacent to private property indicating private property boundary.
- “Open” route maintenance, with an emphasis on making the “open” network of routes more obvious and attractive to use than the “closed” routes. Existing park ranger and maintenance staff would do this work during route signing and sign maintenance.
- Designated Routes will be marked with brown flexible markers with standard decals.

- “Open” routes will be marked with “Designated Route” or white arrow and route number decals at intersections and at one half mile intervals along the route as necessary to indicate routes that are “open” for vehicle travel.
- Where there is a potential for an “open” route to be extended past its current end point by vehicle travel, “Motorized Route Ends” signs decals may be used.
- “Non-Motorized Use Only” routes will be marked with standard symbol decals, indicating that the route is “closed” to motor vehicles.
- “Administrative Use Only” routes will be marked with standard “Closed” route signs most prominent then the standard Admin use only sign will be shown.
- “Closed” routes will be marked with “No Motor Vehicle” or “Route Closed” decals with standard vehicle symbols. As “closed” routes heal through natural re-vegetation or reclamation efforts, and markers are no longer necessary, they will be removed. “Closed” route markers will be sited only where absolutely necessary for resource protection or public safety.
- Shooting area closure signage will be kept to the minimum while ensuring clear delineation of the area closures. Information signs with positive messages will be used and are preferred over limitation signage. The BLM is prohibited from signing areas “open” to shooting.
- To implement the target shooting buffer area approach, a red/green sign system will be devised and installed (see Figure 10: Example Signs). Simple red and green signs indicating when entering or leaving a buffer zone will be placed back-to-back on the same post. A message will be posted directly below the red or green sign stating the buffer width, and thus how far from the route a person would have to go to target shoot. A sample sign is shown below. Actual signs may vary slightly.
- Additional target shooting and route messages likely to be used include:
    - “Keep it Clean, Keep it Open” (Duba, 2008)
    - “You can be fined for irresponsible behavior”
    - Tread Lightly!

FIGURE 10: EXAMPLE SIGNS TO CONTROL SHOOTING

Figure 11 displays the type and location of signs necessary to implement the travel and recreation management decisions made in this plan.

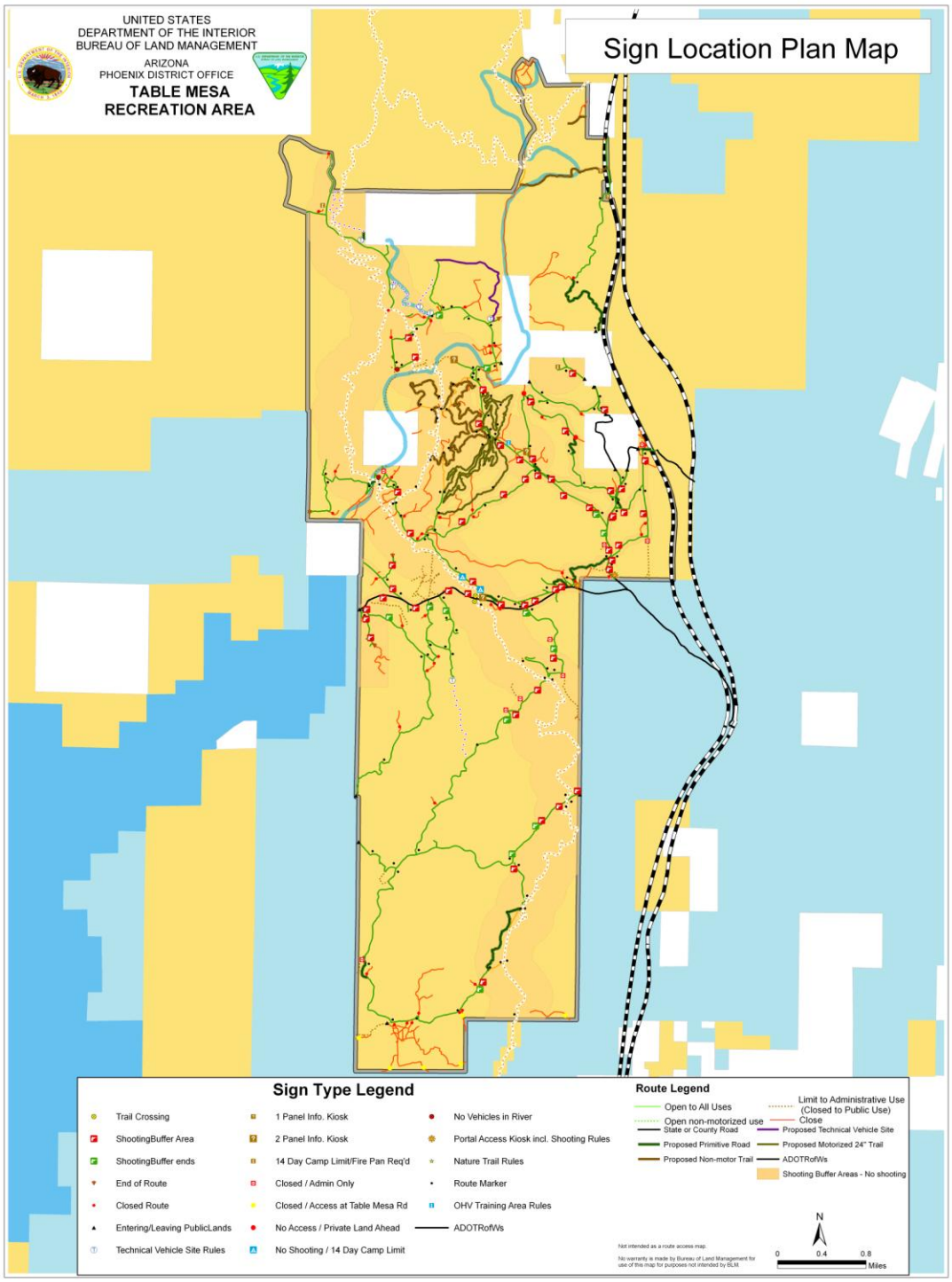

FIGURE 11: SIGN PLAN MAP

2.1.7.4 REHABILITATION

Rehabilitation of target shooting sites, closed primitive roads and disturbed areas would include the following:

1) Removal of foreign debris and trash
2) Ripping compacted soil and seeding with a native seed mixture
3) Planting high value vegetation such as native trees and cactus
4) Fencing the area to prevent driving, cattle trampling or grazing of saplings
5) Irrigation of trees and cactus as necessary

High value vegetation will be transplanted to the degree feasible. Vegetation growing in the path of new primitive roads or trails will be salvaged and relocated to the immediate area or other areas in need of such vegetation.

2.1.7.5 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Following approval of the proposed plan, a notice will be published in the Federal Register in accordance with 43CFR8365 to establish new use restrictions needed to implement and enforce the plan. The notice will specify the shooting area closures, and other use restrictions to be enforced.

PRIORITIZATION OF WORK

Specific prioritization of work will be guided by five factors/questions. he highest priority would be given to areas for which all factors apply.

1. Does it maintain/enhance public safety?
2. Is it located within an area of high resource value?
3. Does it have above-average density of important sensitive species?
4. Does it have above-average disturbance?
5. Does it have significant urban interface issues?

Past agency experience, such as that obtained through the implementation of the *Ord Mountain Route Designation Pilot Project* in the California Desert District CDCA, can give valuable insight into not only effective implementation actions, but also the order in which they should occur. Implementation of the Ord Mountain Pilot plan revealed that the most effective short-term action taken was an increase in enforcement and visitor service patrolling, which resulted in a commensurate increase in visitor contacts. Through this increased number of contacts, visitors realized that BLM was aggressively and successfully implementing a new route network. Visitors generally responded to this in one of two ways. Those who were seeking a cross-country driving experience – and did not want to be limited to routes – gradually moved to the designated “Open Areas” where they could continue to recreate in a more unrestricted

manner. Others continued to recreate in the Ord Mountains, generally staying on “open” routes.

The least effective short-term action taken in the Ord Mountains was signing the “closed” route network. This effort consumed a lot of staff time and signs were removed almost as quickly as they were put up. The need to resign routes placed additional demands on scarce staff time and materials.

Given the lessons learned, the successful implementation of a new route network and shooting closures should proceed in the following order:

1. Pursue funding for outreach literature, signage and staff necessary to implement the route/facility signing effort (i.e. law enforcement, non-law enforcement type park rangers and maintenance staff).
2. Pursue funding for route and site rehabilitation.
3. Sign the “open” route network (limit signing the “closed” route network).
4. Maintain the “open” route network with the principal goal being to make the “open” route network more attractive than the “closed” route network.
5. Install informational kiosks and signing where they would be most effective. Site these facilities where it would reach the greatest number of visitors and where it would target an audience that might be the most receptive to such facilities. For example such facilities might be most beneficial at major trailheads and campgrounds that are heavily visited by camping families/groups.
6. Develop and publish up-to-date, readily available, and easy-to-understand maps. Consider using the USGFS quadrangle format.
7. Regularly maintain signs, kiosks, routes, maps and brochures.

Once funding is available for law enforcement and rehabilitation, the following steps should be taken:

1. Begin area and route rehabilitation in priority areas such as riparian zones and along main roads.
2. Area and route rehabilitation would require active maintenance for at least one year to prevent reestablishment of routes and areas and the growth of seed and plants.

Initiate enforcement and visitor service patrols with the following caveats:

1. Do not over commit; funding must be available to sustain the new patrol for a period of at least two years. Additional funding will be sought through BLM channels and also through partnering to leverage grants or other available funds.

2. As enforcement efforts move into new areas, inappropriate use could migrate back to areas where it is not desired. Therefore, this behavior pattern will be monitored by volunteers.

TABLE 8: IMPLEMENTATION TIME TABLE

ACTION	COMPLETION TIME	COMMENTS
Information campaign with on-the-ground presence Sign open route network Close Agua Fria river to vehicles Implement shooting restriction	Year 1	Grant funding secured Hire a contract park ranger Begin partnerships / volunteer projects
Install informational kiosks and interpretive signing	Year 1	Grant funding secured Use BLM and volunteer labor
Develop and publish maps and brochures	Year 1 - Ongoing	Grant funding secured Use maps in this plan first, then create new public map.
Begin maintaining tread on open route network	Year 1 - Ongoing	Grant funding secured. Use partnership agreement to complete.
Begin development of area facilities and campground Routinely maintain signs, kiosks, routes, maps and brochures	Year 2 - Ongoing	Some grant funding secured. Apply for additional grants / appropriated funding
Pursue funding for route rehabilitation	Year 2 - Ongoing	This would likely come from both federal appropriations and external sources
Pursue funding and Full Time Employee for enforcement, visitor services and maintenance	Year 3 - Ongoing	BLM works on a three-year budget cycle – Apply for appropriated funds in FY 2011. Partnerships may be required.

Foreseeable Projects

The following projects could be necessary in the future to meet plan objectives and desire future conditions.

1. Installation of hardened, low water crossings on the Agua Fria River. Two locations could be improved including private land on BLM Road 9999 and on BLM land on BLM Road 9998.
2. Installation of additional kiosk message boards to facilitate increased use of the area.
3. Implementation of new technology to improve area monitoring such as aerial surveys by aircraft of unmanned aerial vehicle.

Funding Strategy

Significant funding will be needed for labor costs to provide law enforcement, recreation visitor services, and to cover maintenance and operational costs (supplies, materials, tools, equipment, vehicles, communications etc). Operations funding for cultural surveys, land health assessments, wildlife surveys, transportation maintenance and related costs will be determined on an ongoing project basis, and planned annually. A preliminary engineering summary indicates that the facilities and road improvements will total approximately $2,000,000 if contracted out entirely. BLM will strive to lower the costs through partnerships, in-house labor and careful engineering.

Funds for labor, supplies and equipment will be pursued through the BLM budget process, and will be subject to appropriation of funds. Funding sources may include BLM Damaged Lands accounts, State OHV gas tax funds, and grant monies available to non-profit groups. Funding will be pursued though Challenge Cost Share (CCS) projects, an agency program that matches other funding sources, assistance agreements, or plans to leverage external contributions to the greatest extent possible. Grants from various sources will be pursued, including state, federal, and private funding sources. Appropriate agreements will need to be created.

2.1.8 Standard Operating Procedures

The following Standard operating procedures will be implemented during all phases of plan implementation.

General

- Any significant future modifications of this plan could only occur through NEPA compliance, public involvement, interagency coordination, and the preparation of a decision document for the amendment.
- A visitor access guide will be published and made available as full size hard copy maps for sale, smaller maps available for free and posted virtually on the internet.
- Appropriate NEPA analysis will be obtained prior to any ground disturbance not discussed in this plan, and impacts to cultural resources, or other resource values, that may be discovered will be mitigated or avoided.

Routes

- Standards and guidelines will be developed for BLM road and primitive road maintenance, new construction or reconstruction. The standards and guidelines for primitive roads will be based on the functional requirements of the various types of recreational motorized users. BLM will not develop, endorse or publish road or trail ratings. BLM will simply describe the physical aspects of a route or recreation site such as those for technical vehicles.
- Maintenance standards for each designated route will be documented and route modifications will be identified and recommended if necessary. Maintenance will be completed only to the identified maintenance intensity level to support resource and public protection.
- Maintenance of routes may be done to minimize soil erosion and other resource degradation. This maintenance will be done on a case-by-case basis, depending upon annual maintenance funding.
- Maintenance procedures for physical barriers will be developed, once the number and type of barriers is determined.
- Minor modifications of the road network during plan implementation is allowed without a plan amendment. FLPMA allows BLM resource management plans (such as the ARMP/ROD) to be "maintained as necessary to reflect minor changes in data" (Section 1610.5-4). Plan maintenance is limited in that it cannot result in the expansion of the scope of resource uses or restrictions or change the terms, conditions, and decisions of the ARMP/ROD. It is limited to further refining or documenting a previously approved decision incorporated in the plan. In view of these limitations, "minor realignments" of the route network would be considered to be Plan Maintenance. The term "minor realignment" refers to a change of no more than one quarter (1/4) mile of one designated route. It could include the opening of an existing, but previously "closed" route that serves the same access need as the "open" route that is to be "realigned". It does not include the construction of a new route involving new ground disturbance, except where new construction is necessary to avoid a cultural resource site or sensitive species. "Minor realignments" include the following:
    - Minor realignments of a route where necessary to minimize effects on cultural resources.
    - Minor realignments of a route necessary to reduce impact on sensitive species or their habitats.
    - Minor realignments of a route that would substantially increase the quality of a recreational experience, while not affecting sensitive species or their habitat, or any other sensitive resource value.
- Minor realignments must be documented in the official record. The reason for the alignment change shall be recorded and kept on file in the HFO.

- Opening or “limited” opening of a route where valid rights of way or easements of record were not accurately identified in the route designation process.
- Any person, organization or governmental body may propose that any current route designations be changed to another designation. This means from “open”, “closed” or “limited” to another designation of “open,” “closed” or “limited.” Until such time that specific application materials are developed, request to change route designations must be submitted in writing to the field manager.
- Upon receipt of a route change proposal, it will be reviewed by the authorized officer. Since the designation of routes is a discretionary action the authorized officer may determine whether or not the proposal has merit and whether or not the proposal constitutes a significant or minor modification. If the application is rejected, a letter will be sent to the applicant indicating the reasons for rejection. If accepted, the application will be forwarded to the appropriate BLM staff. The application will be reviewed and a recommendation shall be made to the authorized officer as to appropriateness of the proposal and magnitude of NEPA requirements. Further, a recommendation shall be forwarded as to whether or not the proposed action is significant or minor. If the authorized officer determines that staffing/funding is lacking, the authorized officer may reject one or all proposals.
- The proposed BLM Roads consist of roads or primitive roads that provide the principal access from the public highway system to public lands in the planning area. These routes are the main connectors of the planning area’s existing travel route network under current and foreseeable traffic patterns. These routes function as BLM Local, although road standards may vary depending on type of use or to meet specific management objectives. These routes will generally be the priorities for pursuing legal access acquisition (or adjudicating existing access rights) across non-federal land, and for completing maintenance to ensure long term, legal public access to the public lands in the planning area. These routes will generally be the highest transportation maintenance priority. Road segments from the public highways to the public land may be posted with ‘Public Land Access Route’ signs.
- When accepting a proposal the authorized officer should consider cost recovery. Only after NEPA analysis has occurred will a formal decision to accept or reject a specific route change be made.
- Hand raking and disguise of prominent “closed” routes, including planting commonly found plants on “closed” routes will be employed to help discourage use.
- Proactive route rehabilitation work would be utilized where the first phase has not proven to be successful or where route conditions were clearly beyond the capability of the first phase to address.

- Having route designations in place enhances the availability of funds, and would allow the BLM to pursue external sources of rehabilitation funding such as State OHV Grants, the National Fish and Wildlife Habitat Fund (USFWS), and contributions of volunteer labor from local, state, and national interest organizations.
- Focus on signing of the open route network so that it stands out well, thus discouraging interest in closed routes. The signing of closed routes will be done very infrequently, since they have been found to be more of an attractant than a deterrent to unauthorized use.

Easements, Rights of Way, and Permissive access license agreements

- Acquisition of road or trail easement, or issuance of a right-of-way on an existing or historic physical access, will be pursued only in areas where those actions will contribute to the protection of natural resources, and not for the sole enhancement of recreation opportunity.
- Easements may be acquired through donation following the procedures set forth in *BLM Manual 2100- Acquisition*.

Target Shooting Buffer Closures

Closed shooting sites will be rehabilitated and returned to a natural condition. This will be achieved by one or more of the following actions;

- Ripping compacted soils with a tractor and sowing native seed.
- Placing a physical barrier such as three strand wire fence, concrete "jersey" barriers or dirt ditch/berm. There will be removed when the area is reclaimed and no longer needed.
- Signage including "entering/ leaving shooting buffer zone." Signs redirecting shooters to open areas will be employed; closed area signs will be used sparingly. Reference to accepted messages will be used (*Responsive Management*, 2006).

Special Recreation Permits

A Special Recreation Permit (SRP) is required for use of public land in connection with commercial, competitive, and organized group activities in accordance with public land regulations. Permits are not required for private, non-commercial recreational use.

Restoration and Rehabilitation

- One or multiple techniques described will be used to restore routes and areas.
- "Closed" routes on BLM land will typically be allowed to reclaim naturally, when at all feasible. Most of these routes include lightly travelled routes that serve "limited" access purpose. The HFO recognizes that simply posting a "closed" sign has little effect on user

behavior and that for a route closure to be most effective, the specific route should be obliterated from public view to at least the visual horizon, as seen from the intersection with an "open" route. The application of rehabilitation techniques to "closed" routes, may be used where necessary, to speed the healing process, discourage use of "closed" routes, and minimize the impact on visual resources. Monitoring will drive the need for heavier forms of restoration.

- "Closed" routes in sensitive areas, or those that are causing unacceptable impacts will generally receive a higher priority for reclaiming the route to the visual horizon. Some of these routes may be ripped, ditched, re-graded or re-contoured entirely or in part to aid reclamation, if indicated by site conditions. In only rare situations will a "closed" route be rehabilitated beyond the visual horizon.
- Other methods to close routes may include techniques as posting with signs and/or blocking with barriers to prevent vehicle entry as determined reasonable. In a low desert environment it is difficult to block a route with simple barriers or tank traps because the terrain allows for circumvention of the barrier.
- Install some form of barrier and reclaim the portion of the route that is visible from all intersections with "open" routes.
- Seeding will be done where necessary to aid rehabilitation of "closed" routes. Appropriate seed mixtures will be selected for each site based on individual site conditions. Native species only are allowed for reclamation. Vegetation may be transplanted from other nearby areas.
- Recommended reclamation techniques include ripping the road surface with a small dozer to break up compacted soil and allow maximum moisture retention. Broadcast seeding will generally be conducted in the fall. After the seed has been distributed uniformly over the area by mechanical broadcasting devices, the ground would be raked or dragged to cover the seed. After the first year, seeded areas would be fertilized if seedling establishment is sparse. Techniques such as hydraulic seeding, seed drilling, mulching, water barring, pitting, roughening, contour furrowing, or similar methods may be used as appropriate on a case-by-case basis.
- Vegetation removed during the construction of new roads/ trails may be transplanted to disturbed areas. Depending upon size and access to remove vegetation, not all will be transplanted.
- Weed treatment and control measures would be implemented as needed to promote re-vegetation with native plants and prevent any new weed establishment and/or control of existing weed sources.

2.1.8.1 Monitoring and Evaluation

The success of the Table Mesa RMZ Recreation and Travel Management Plan is best determined through monitoring and evaluation. BLM will develop and implement a monitoring

and evaluation program for the area. It will be designed to identify and address emerging issues that may adversely impact the resource and/or visitor experience. The data monitoring will be used to evaluate implementation progress and the effectiveness of the Plan in achieving desired outcomes and conditions and to identify adaptive measures should adverse impacts be discovered. The monitoring effort shall identify specific actions, including timeframes, methods, and anticipated resource needs for environmental monitoring. The evaluation and monitoring program will be used for the following:

- Determine if recreation objectives are being met.
- Determine visitor satisfaction.
- Determine use patterns and volumes.
- Determine the condition of roads and trails, the condition of public use areas, and compliance with planned designations and use restrictions.
- Determine efficacy of cross-jurisdictional enforcement.

Limits of Acceptable Change indicators, or triggers, requiring adjustments to this management plan are as follows:

- Desired recreation experiences over a five year period are not being met as determined by surveys, visitor sign in logs or other data gathering process conducted in the planning area.
- Unauthorized routes, whether created by motor vehicle or non-motorized means, cannot be rehabilitated at the same rate as their creation with available funding or personnel.
- Priority / Special Status species habitat conditions are in a downward trend over a five year period and is determined to be a result of recreation or travel impacts.
- Riparian condition trend is not improving over a five year period and is determined to be a result of recreation or travel impacts.
- Visitor safety and assumed risk for non-shooters is determined by BLM to be unacceptable as determined by data collection and surveys conducted in the planning area.

Some features of the monitoring plan will include:

- BLM employees and volunteers will be encouraged to use the OHV Observation report booklets while in the field to document vehicle use and assist in monitoring and compliance.
- Photo-monitoring points will be established in key locations to monitor implementation actions and their effectiveness. For example, photo points can be established to monitor where cross-country travel has occurred, activity on “closed” routes has occurred,

success of rehabilitation projects, extent of erosion mitigation areas, as well as areas of good road quality for future reference. Photo monitoring points will be documented using GPS and a monitoring schedule will be established.

- The monitoring data collected will be used to assess the effectiveness of the plan and associated implementation actions.
- “Closed” routes would be monitored for indications of use, rehabilitated routes will be monitored to determine effectiveness of seeding and water drainage and the plan area will be monitored for signing conditions. Modifications to the plan would be considered if monitoring indicates that the goals and objectives are not being met.
- Recreation demand/preference will be captured by survey as funding and staffing allow. This type of project is well-suited.
- Upland health assessments will be conducted as warranted
- Riparian health assessments will be conducted every 3-5 years.
- To maintain simplicity, hard copy binders backed up with digital data will be created and stored for a period of ten consecutive years. After ten years, only select photos and data will be retained for long term monitoring.
- Surveys would be conducted in the planning area to ensure accurate feedback and may be conducted by BLM staff or contracted to an appropriate entity. Surveys may not be conducted on a regular basis unless part of a larger survey effort such as National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM).

BLM maintains the authority to temporarily or permanently, partially, or completely suspend any activity at the Table Mesa RMZ based on safety issues and adverse resource impacts. All open routes and shooting areas remain under a "conditionally open" status. Acceptable uses will be allowed only if the use does not degrade the condition and health of the land.

2.2 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative (Figure 12) represents the current management conditions at the Table Mesa RMZ. In this alternative, 100 percent of routes existing at the time of the route inventory would remain open to motorized use. Existing target shooting sites would be unaffected. No facilities would be constructed to support recreation, resource protection, and public safety.

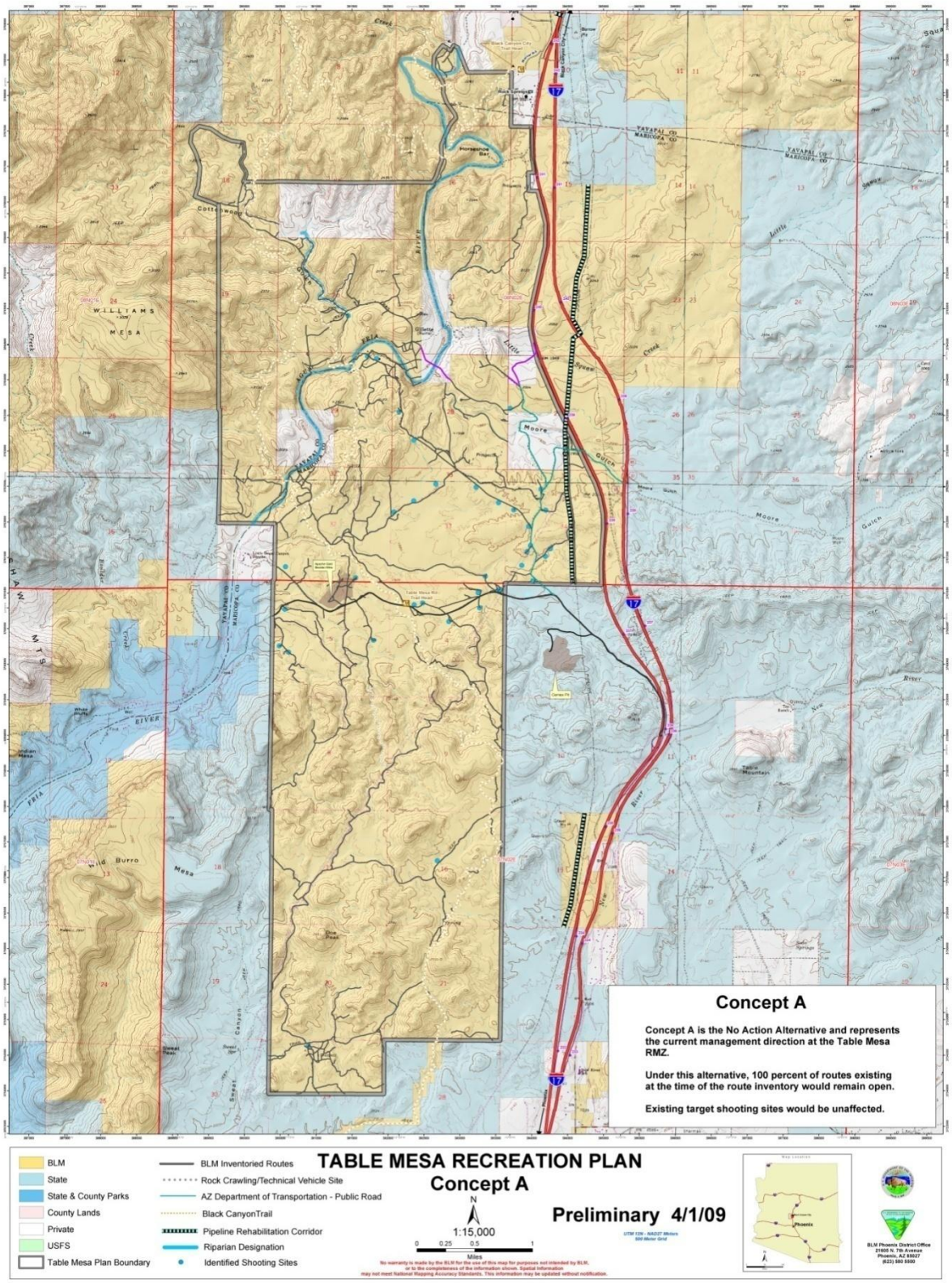

FIGURE 12: NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

2.3 Alternatives Considered but not Analyzed Further

Several proposals/alternatives received by BLM have been considered but have been eliminated from detailed analysis. Individual proposals/alternatives can be eliminated from further analysis.

Each proposal considered but not analyzed further is discussed below.

Routes

Emphasize motorized use in this area with non-motorized emphasis in adjacent area.
The Black Canyon Trail is a nationally recognized non-motorized recreation trail and traverses the Table Mesa planning area. Additionally, according to the RMP, the Black Canyon Trail Hiking and Equestrian RMZ splits the Table Mesa RMZ, thus the area will be managed for both motorized and non-motorized use.

Maintain access to Tip Top Mine
The Tip Top mine is located out of the planning area. However, this plan is setting the stage for access in forthcoming planning efforts for other areas.

Reopen old mining roads, specifically in the southern area (Bonnie Bell Mine).
This area contains wildlife habitat, has access management issues, and also contains many abandoned mines, which pose a risk to public safety.

Allow motorized access from New River.
The southern end of Table Mesa provides good wildlife habitat and is emphasized as a hunting area. Allowing access leads to unauthorized trail proliferation and is contrary to protection of wildlife areas. Additionally, this area is surrounded by state land and poses an access management challenge for BLM.

Evaluate and designate a sand run in the Agua Fria River.
Three specific areas along the river were evaluated for sand runs and were determined to that allowing use in the river bottom would make improvement of the riparian condition much more difficult or impossible. The Bradshaw Harquahala Resource Management Plan, of which Table Mesa is part, indicates that the riparian areas within the Agua Fria River corridor are not meeting land health standards. In order to bring these areas up to standard, motorized use will be tightly controlled in riparian areas. Furthermore, containing vehicle traffic to specific areas within the floodplain would be difficult to achieve due to the seasonal flow of the river.

Create a new route on BLM, parallel to the power line road and to allow loop route in south end of RMZ.
A loop route is included in the plan.

Conduct separate NEPA (environmental) analysis for each proposed route change.
NEPA regulations allow the BLM to conduct programmatic planning area analyses. Accordingly, we plan to do so for Table Mesa. Each route in this plan represents an individual decision and the result can be reviewed in appendix E.

Do not improve Table Mesa Road.
This road is maintained by Maricopa County under a right-of-way grant. Maintenance and improvements will be determined by the county.

Consider at least 100 miles of OHV routes.
The plan includes approximately 54 miles of routes for multiple vehicle types, enough to provide for at least 2 days of scenic trail rides for users, while protecting resources. Additionally, coordination of routes allows for loop trails not previously available making better use of open routes.

Consider allowing route 17B/19K for day use only.
Route is located through an important spring water source for wildlife. The avian wildlife uses this water source throughout the day, so there is little value of a day use only restriction. Further, canyon walls prevent rerouting this technical vehicle site.

Add single track mountain bike trails in Doe Peak area.
New mountain bike trails are proposed north of Table Mesa Road. Locating these trails north of Table Mesa Road allows for more access to more users.

Consider allowing route 16P/16N to be designated as open for single track use only.
Other proposed single-track routes are very close to this proposal and include a larger, more comprehensive single-track trail system.

Driving in washes should be allowed.
Some washes coincide with designated routes and will be open for use. Such routes will be shown on maps and signed on the ground.

Add a long-distance motor cycle route from Table Mesa to Bumble Bee.
While Bumble Bee is outside of the Table Mesa Planning area, this plan sets the stage for creating access in forthcoming planning efforts for other areas, such as Bumble Bee. Long distance route corridors will be designated by this plan.

Consider separating trails by speed limit instead of use type.
Enforcing speed limits is difficult given different modes of transportation, law enforcement access, and individual user speed preferences. Minimizing conflict will be achieved by engineering – building barriers that bar entry of inappropriate vehicles .

Don't limit us to existing trails.
BLM policy requires route designation.

Rock Crawling/Technical Vehicle Sites

Consider a northern access route (skirting private land) for "Collateral Damage" Rock Crawling site.
The area was surveyed and is not technically feasible route could be determined. There is a 20 foot drop to the river which would require extensive excavation and stabilization. A southern route has been identified in the plan to allow access.

Maintain as open all existing rock crawling routes.
Some existing rock crawling routes are located in important wildlife habitat and or cross unsecured private land. Each route has been evaluated for its merits and effects. It is our intent to allow as much access as possible, while balancing area conservation.

Open the "Armageddon" rock crawling site on a limited basis.
This site runs through a riparian spring area.. Use of the area as a rock crawling site would degrade the riparian conditions and would be inconsistent with RMP objectives.

Recreational Target Shooting

Reconsider proposed closure of S22 and S29
These sites fall within 200 feet (60 meters) of each side of the roads with heavy use, which are proposed to be buffered with shooting closures to enhance safety. Additionally, these sites have unsafe shooting conditions.

Reconsider proposed shooting closures at sites within washes as some users feel that lead migration concerns are unfounded and wash banks provide safe backstops (This proposal also included a testimonial of water quality data from the City of Phoenix.).
Shooting is allowed anywhere outside of closure buffer as long as safe shooting practices are employed, which includes selecting an adequate back stop, not shooting across roads or depressions in the landscape.

Create mini ranges and require their use – the Doe Peak area would be good for this.
BLM Policy prohibits designating shooting sites.

Develop many smaller shooting areas instead of a few larger ones.
BLM Policy prohibits designating shooting sites.

Retain shooting site S-29 as a shotgun range.
S-29 falls within the shooting closure buffer. BLM Policy prohibits designating shooting sites.

Develop shooting sites.
BLM policy expressly prohibits the development of shooting sites.

Do not close any of the RMZ to shooting.
Shooting buffer closures (sixty percent (60%) of the 11,557 will remain open to shooting) are designed to improve safety and to enable all types of recreation in the area.

Ban shooting in entire Table Mesa Planning Area.
The BLM mission is to manage for multiple uses, including multiple recreation uses. The shooting closure buffer was designed to maximize safety and multiple recreation opportunities, including target shooting. The AF H RMP defined TM as opened for/ to recreational shooting, as long as managed safely.

Create a Landing Zone for shooting
BLM policy expressly prohibits the development of shooting sites.

Hunting

Consider adding game birds for better hunting.
The Arizona Game and Fish Department has authority for wildlife population management, including stocking of game species. standards.

Rights of Way and Realty

Add old roads on topographical maps into the system for later use.
The BLM Route Inventory serves as the baseline. Old roads may be old alignments or may no longer exist.

Purchase the "Gillette" private property and make it a camp/picnic area.
Land acquisition is not defined in the Resource Management Plan, to which the Table Mesa planning area must conform.

Require key access to the area from I-17.
While adaptive management for recreation access will be utilized to ensure resource protection and public safety, restricting access to keyed entry points may restrict user community from taking advantage of the recreation area.

Education, Outreach, Administration & Enforcement

Work with Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and the Department of Public Safety to conduct sweeps of shooting users.
BATF and DPS are able to work with BLM for enforcement. BLM will work with any pertinent jurisdictional authorities to enforce the plan, existing laws and educate the public.

Adopt an enforcement plan. First offense leads to a ticket. Second office leads to banishment from area.
Removal of use privileges is under the jurisdiction of the Federal Court, not BLM. Future disciplinary actions may include opportunities for offenders to complete responsible use training in lieu of fines/restricted use, or to conduct work and improvements in Table Mesa.

Allow hunting of nuisance Burros.
Burros are protected under The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 (Public Law 92-195).

Consider a reasonably-priced permit fee
While a fee was initially considered, it will not be implemented at this time to maximize benefit to general public.

Consider a uniform access pass for recreation areas.
This idea has been presented in many forums but is outside the scope of this planning effort.

Consider trail use rotation.
The planning area is too small, and the use is too high for trail rotation to be effective.

Include water stations for recreationalists.
Because of the back-country nature of the planning area, providing drinking water is outside of the scope of this planning effort.

Facilities

Add a helipad to the Table Mesa planning area.
In the small planning area, recreational helicopter landing poses safety risks and the utility corridor is another factor. Safety officials may land a helicopter outside of landing pads for emergency response.

Add an airstrip to Table Mesa planning area.
In the small planning area, recreational flying could pose a public safety risk and a threat to wildlife such as desert tortoise.

Create a gold panning area in Agua Fria River.
Casual panning is allowed wherever there is no existing mining claim. Most of the River, however, is already claimed.

Erect a bridge over the Agua Fria River to protect it.
River crossings will be improved by concrete aprons. Access over the river to the back country of the planning area will reduce protection efforts.

Add camp sites near shooting areas.
While the plan does not include camping facilities specifically for shooters, dispersed camping can occur anywhere in the planning area, as long as vehicles remain within 100 feet of roads.

3 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

This chapter focuses on the environmental analysis of the proposed action (the Table Mesa Recreation and Travel Management Plan) and no action alternatives presented in the previous chapter. In many cases, impacts are assessed qualitatively but, when possible, quantitative impacts are evaluated. Evaluation focuses on direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of both the no action and proposed action alternatives.

Common impact terms are defined below:

- **Negligible Impacts** are those impacts that occur or may occur and have little or no visible trace on the resource or for which mitigation actions exist and acceptable.
- **Minor Impacts** are those impacts that occur or may occur and have some visible trace on the resource or for which mitigation actions exist and are not acceptable or for which no mitigation impacts exist.
- **Moderate Impacts** are those impacts that occur or may occur and have some visible trace on the resource or for which mitigation actions exist and are not acceptable or for which no mitigation impacts exist.
- **Major Impacts** are those impacts that occur or may occur and have a large visible trace on the resource or may even eradicate the resource or cause its value as a resource to deteriorate to such a level that the resource may no longer qualify for protection or use.
- **Short-Term Impacts** are those effects that are not permanent or can be changed/remediated back to a prior condition in a short amount of time.
- **Long-Term Impacts** are those permanent or unchangeable effects such as the loss of a resource and other than permanent or unchangeable that cannot be changed/-remediated back to a prior condition in a short amount of time.

Table 9 summarizes potential resources analyzed further in this environmental analysis.

TABLE 9: AFFECTED RESOURCES

Resource	Present In Table Mesa Planning Area?	Potentially Impacted by Action or No Action Alternatives?
Air Quality	Yes	Yes (see further discussion below)
Abandoned Mine Lands	Yes	There are several known abandoned mine sites within the Table Mesa RMZ. No further

Resource	Present In Table Mesa Planning Area?	Potentially Impacted by Action or No Action Alternatives?
		analysis is conducted in the EA as it is expected that the recreation plan (or lack thereof), will not adversely impact sites. Several of these sites are planned for remediation/backfill in order to protect public safety in this heavily recreated area.
Cultural	Yes	Yes (see further discussion below)
Fish and Wildlife	Yes	Yes (see further discussion below)
Geology	Yes	No. There are no issues associated with geologic resources in the planning area and no potential impact to important geologic resources expected from. Therefore, no further analysis is conducted.
Lands and Realty	Yes	Yes (see further discussion below)
Livestock Grazing	Yes	(see further discussion below)
Minerals	Yes	Yes (see further discussion below)
Paleontological Resources	No	No
Public Safety	Yes	Yes (see further discussion below
Recreation	Yes	Yes (see further discussion below)
Riparian Ares and Wetlands	Yes	Yes (see further discussion below)
Socioeconomic Resources	Yes	Yes (see further discussion below)
Soil	Yes	Yes (see further discussion below)
Special Designations	Yes – National Trails	Yes (see further discussion below)

Resource	Present In Table Mesa Planning Area?	Potentially Impacted by Action or No Action Alternatives?
Special Status Species	Yes	Yes (see further discussion below)
Travel/Transportation and Access	Yes	Yes (see further discussion below)
Tribal Interests	No	At this time, there are no known TCPs within the project area according to an AZSITE site search and BLM cultural resources map check.
Visual Resources	Yes	Yes (see further discussion below)
Water Resources	Yes	Yes (see further discussion below)
Wild and Scenic Rivers	No	No
Wild Burros	No	There is no Herd Management Area (HMA) in the Table Mesa Planning area, the Lake Pleasant HMA is located nearby. Any transient burros belonging to this herd would be moved and any non-herd, wild burros managed by BLM would be rounded for eventual adoption.

3.1 Air Quality

3.1.1 Affected Environment

The Phoenix area, including much of Maricopa county, is exceeding PM 10 standards. Primary sources of pollution contributing to this non-attainment are windblown dust from construction sites, agricultural fields, unpaved roads and parking lots, and disturbed vacant lots.

Based on 1997 air quality standards, the entire state of Arizona is in attainment of the PM2.5 standard.

Air quality agencies are working on more stringent control measures to decrease particulate matter, both PM10 and PM2.5, including aiming to decrease PM2.5 emissions by 5 percent per year. Most areas where standards are exceeded are in the immediate vicinity of and to the northeast of the metropolitan Phoenix area. It is reasonable to assume that emission sources located within or near the planning areas could potentially contribute to exceeding the PM10

NAAQS standard, although insufficient information is available to identify specific causes or sources of the measured levels in excess of standards, except (in some cases) high winds.

As identified above in the overview, vehicle travel on paved roads, especially in the metropolitan Phoenix area, represents the largest single emission source category in and surrounding the Planning Ares. In addition, travel on unpaved roads throughout the planning area results in particulate emissions in the form of fugitive dust.

3.1.2 Environmental Consequences

3.1.2.1 No Action Alternative

Vehicle driving and the use of vehicles on un-stabilized surfaces will contribute directly to localized fugitive dust through dust creation at a negligible to minor level.

Under the No-Action Alternative, the Table Mesa RMZ would not be developed, routes would not be designated, and activity that could negatively affect long-term air quality would continue unmanaged. It is likely that fugitive dust would indirectly contribute to the exceedence of Maricopa County air quality standards.

3.1.2.2 Proposed Action

Under the proposed action, dust from construction of the plan facilities is expected to create temporary air quality impacts. Roads, parking/staging areas would be stabilized. Other dust control mechanisms such as speed limits would be employed to help reduce fugitive dust. Additional dust abatement may occur with the assistance of education and enforcement of speed limits. While use of fugitive-dust generating devices may increase due to the developed nature of the area, it is expected that dust will be better managed and overall air quality will not decline in the area, having an overall negligible to minor impact to local air quality.

3.1.2.3 Cumulative Impacts

Under the no action alternative, fugitive dust would continue to contribute to air quality exceedence within the MCAD, especially given the anticipated increase in use due to population growth. Cumulative impacts are anticipated to be negligible to minor.

Under the proposed action, increased management along with reduced routes would reduce the geographic extent of potential fugitive dust sources on BLM land. Cumulative impacts are anticipated to be negligible to minor.

3.2 Cultural Resources

The following impact indicators are commonly used for cultural resources:

- Number of National Register of Historic Places eligible sites within one quarter of a mile of major existing roads and/or trails and/or proposed roads and or trails
- Number of uses a road is accessed for - Proposed use of analyzed roads or trails as well as unintended but reasonably foreseeable uses (positive and negative impacts - for example, unsafe shooting, trash dumping, OHV use, Horseback riding, outdoor recreation i.e. - hiking)
- Number of impacted sites and number of negative impacts - Looting, driving through sites, impact of increased visitation on sites
- Number of National Register Eligible or AML sites affected by proposed activities
- Impacts of increased visitation to the area via new routes on known cultural sites considered for interpretation at a future date
- Impacts from unsafe shooting
- Impacts from trash dumping

Under Section 106, a project adversely affects a historic property if it alters the characteristics that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property. "Integrity" is the ability of a property to convey its significance, based on its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Adverse effects can be direct or indirect. They include reasonably foreseeable impacts that may occur later in time, be farther removed in distance, or be cumulative. Examples of adverse effects include:

- physical destruction or damage;
- alteration inconsistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties;
- relocation of the property;
- change in the character of the property's use or setting;
- introduction of incompatible visual, atmospheric, or audible elements;
- neglect and deterioration;
- transfer, lease, or sale out of federal control without adequate preservation restrictions

3.2.1 Affected Environment

BLM conducted cultural resource surveys to identify sites that could be adversely affected by the management actions proposed in the Table Mesa plan. The objective is to avoid developing recreational facilities, or allowing surface-disturbing activities in areas where they could pose adverse impacts to sites that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or traditional cultural places if any are identified to BLM by tribes in consultation.

Cultural resource management involves many different activities including cultural resources survey for the purposes of identification and evaluation, scientific research, public education, site protection and interpretive development. The Hassayampa Field Office 2009 Route Evaluation Areas for the Table Mesa RMZ occur in an area of approximately 258.18 acres. Within that acreage, there is approximately 73 miles total of roads and trails. Within these 73 miles, there were approximately 5 isolates found during this survey, and one site, N: 16:187(ASM), a National Register eligible site on a small bench above the Agua Fria River measuring 120 meters N/S x 80 meters E/W previously recorded. The completed trail section of Arrastre Creek segment contained native bunch grass species known to be beneficial to the Hohokam for basket weaving material. The community of grasses lines the left bank of the creek and is undisturbed by trail building and traffic activity. The exact species was not determined, but is believed to be in the Muhlenbergia family. The noted findings of this deergrass are in the southwest corner and eastern border of Arizona. Verification of the species would be required.

Existing information from cultural resource surveys indicates that the area contains dispersed prehistoric and historic sites, consisting primarily of low-density artifact scatters, old mining sites, the historic Gillette mining town(also known as Gillette or Gillette Gleeson Town site, AZ N:16:188(ASM)), and historic trails. Surveys in the Lake Pleasant County Park, just west of this area, revealed a relatively high density of sites close to the Agua Fria River. The Table Mesa planning area includes approximately seven miles of the river north of the park boundary, where the BLM will strive to protect riparian areas, water quality and any associated archaeological sites.

3.2.2 Environmental Consequences

3.2.2.1 No Action Alternative

Currently, any archaeological and historic resources that may exist in the area are in danger of impacts from unmanaged OHV activity and shooting, construction of impromptu staging areas and camp sites, and the potential creation of new roads and trails. Impacts are expected from increased visitation and include damage from driving over sites and looting. If activities associated with these impacts were allowed to continue unchecked, it could result in the loss of historic and cultural resources in and thus the loss of an opportunity for public education and interpretation as specified for certain resources as mentioned in the ARMP/ROD.

The Agua Fria Fort and Gillette/ Gillette Gleeson Town site, the five isolates found during this survey, and the one site previously recorded, currently undisturbed bunch grass species found near Arrastre Creek, could all be potentially negatively impacted by steadily increasing uncontrolled and unchecked OHV and shooting activities. Even though no archaeological sites were discovered within 200 feet of either side of the proposed trail segments, the locating of

these isolates and natural resources known to have been used prehistorically indicates areas that would be left unprotected from potentially negative impacts in this alternative.

The no action alternative could preclude BLM from complying with Federal laws for the protection of cultural and historic resources.

Cumulative impacts on cultural resources are anticipated to be negligible to minor.

3.2.2.2 Proposed Action

Under this alternative, increased management may protect cultural resources. In both the short and long term, restricting visitation to sensitive areas would protect these resources more than in the no action alternative. No archaeological or historical sites were discovered within 200 feet of either side of the proposed trail segments.

Proactive planning such as the route closures proposed in this plan are a vital step in keeping cultural resources undamaged by limiting access and knowledge of the resource locations to the general public unless/until they are interpreted. Through interpretation of the more feasible cultural resource sites, BLM would hope to increase public knowledge and appreciation of the cultural resources and prevent future damage to sites by creating more advocacy in the public mind in regard to these resources.

Despite its potential for increased protection of cultural resources, under the proposed action, direct and indirect impacts from increased visitation could occur via creation of unauthorized routes (potentially through known and unknown cultural resources); increased potential for illegal activities related to cultural resources such as looting, digging within sites without permits or permission; and unsafe shooting and/or trash dumping. Indirect Impacts from this Alternative could include a loss of resources significant to or of value to Native American concerns or practices, an action that is out of compliance with American Indian Religious Freedom Act as well as the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

Saving the Agua Fria river corridor from Dewey to Lake Pleasant could have an long term effect of preventing the loss of archaeological evidence of prehistoric and historic use of the area as either a corridor used for movement from one place to another or as a place of occupation and settlement. Additionally, in the short term it would have potential to allow the previously impacted areas a chance to recover from impacts already done in the past although because cultural resources are irretrievable once lost, the effect on cultural resources would be negligible except where no previous damage has occurred.

Because of the increased protection afforded by the proposed action, contributions to cumulative impacts on cultural resources are anticipated to be negligible.

3.2.2.3 Cumulative Impacts

Under the no action alternative, cumulative impacts to cultural resources are anticipated to be greater than those under the proposed action, due to increased potential for off-road incursion on cultural resources and increased potential for vandalism. Site specific surveys are required for federal action taken under each alternative, which would reduce potential impacts to each site. Under both alternatives, cumulative impacts are anticipated to be negligible to minor.

3.3 Fish and Wildlife Habitat

3.3.1 Affected Environment

Wildlife species that occur in the planning area vary depending on the vegetation, substrate type and topography. The riparian area along the Agua Fria River is used by a number of fish and wildlife species. Fish present in the area include longfin dace, desert sucker, fathead minnow, common carp, mosquitofish, and green sunfish. The riparian area is also used by many migratory birds including yellow warblers, summer tanagers, Bell's vireo, and many other species.

Wildlife species that can be found in the upland areas include but are not limited to mule deer, javelina, coyote, gray fox, bobcat, striped skunk, kangaroo rats, wood rats, pocket mice, western diamondback rattlesnakes and various other snakes, lizards, small mammals and birds.

3.3.2 Environmental Consequences

3.3.2.1 No Action Alternative

Motorized use of riparian areas would degrade habitat by impeding regeneration of plants, frequently disturbing aquatic habitat and disrupting breeding and feeding behavior of wildlife using the area.

In upland areas, motorized use of existing routes would continue and route proliferation is likely as new routes continue to be established. Habitat loss and fragmentation are likely to result from increased vehicle route abundance and use.

In both riparian and upland areas, motorized use in addition to disturbing the areas can introduce and facilitate the expansion of invasive plant species. Exotic and invasive plant species degrade habitat quality for numerous species and can increase fire frequency which can alter the vegetative communities, having major impacts on wildlife that exist in these areas.

The cumulative impacts on area fish and wildlife habitat are anticipated to be minor.

3.3.2.2 Proposed Action

In riparian areas, 6.6 miles of stream channel would be closed to motorized vehicles, eliminating associated impacts to the vegetation. Limiting vehicle use to designated crossings

would limit associated disturbances to these sites and allow recovery of wildlife habitat within the riparian areas.

In upland areas, a total of 30.3 acres, would be closed and reclaimed while 11.9 acres of new disturbance would occur to develop new motorized and non-motorized routes. A net decrease in 18.4 acres of disturbed areas would result from the proposed action. Vehicle route abundance would be decreased with closed routes being actively or passively reclaimed as wildlife habitat. Reduced route abundance would reduce the potential spread of invasive plants.

Under this alternative, greater protection of fish and wildlife habitat would occur as compared to the no action alternative and impacts are anticipated to be negligible to minor.

The cumulative impacts of the proposed action are anticipated to be minor.

3.3.2.3 Cumulative Impacts

Under the proposed action, activity on designated routes and camping/staging areas would disturb habitat to varying degrees depending on the level of activity. Wildlife habitat could change in quality along heavily used routes. Impacts in riparian areas – along the Agua Fria River – and in washes would be reduced from the no action alternative. Under the no action alternative, cumulative impacts to fish and wildlife habitat are expected to increase, given the anticipated increases in visitation over time.

3.4 Lands & Realty

3.4.1 Affected Environment

Within the planning area there are 38 authorized actions and nine pending actions. Most of these actions are rights of way and include authorization for public roads, utilities (such as pipelines, communication, and powerlines) private land access, special recreation permits, agreements with Yavapai and Maricopa County, and an apiary site. Legal access for the public across private lands needs resolution. Public use has been occurring across most private land parcels, yet is not authorized. A summary of the type and number of authorized and pending actions for the planning area is shown in Table 10.

TABLE 10: LAND USE AUTHORIZATIONS

Type of Authorization	Authorized	Pending
Utility	15	
Private Land Access	4	3
Special Recreation Permit	7	4
County/State Public Roads	7	1

BLM	2	1
Maricopa County Board of Supervisors	1	
Yavapai County Board of Supervisors	1	
Apiary	1	

3.4.2 Environmental Consequences

3.4.2.1 No Action Alternative

The No Action alternative is not expected to have impacts on existing land use authorizations. Throughout the planning area, the existing roads and trails provide a route network to access utilities, private land and conduct approved permit activities. Access for the public would remain unauthorized and access would likely be blocked over time due to development or assertion of private property rights. Access to and from adjoining state land would remain open with all gates unlocked, allowing unlimited numbers of visitors to access the area on powerline maintenance primitive roads from the south and west.

3.4.2.2 Proposed Action

The proposed action is not expected to have a negligible to minor impact on existing land use authorizations. A redistribution of area visitors and designation of routes should have the effect of reducing maintenance needed on authorized public roads, utility structures and access roads. Two gates bordering state land on the southwest end of the planning area would be locked causing right-of-way holders and permittees to seek a key or add their own lock to the chain on the gate. BLM is addressing public access across private lands through actions that include Arizona Game and Fish Department and private land owners. Long term access license agreements will be pursued and land owner access needs addressed through right-of-way issuance in a cooperative manner. Arizona Department of Transportation is also in process of acquiring access for a public road in the area. When combined with BLM's agreements for access, public access will be allowed on the designated route network, including one road on three different parcels of private land.

3.4.2.3 Cumulative Impacts

Under the no action alternative, no cumulative impact to lands and realty are anticipated. Under the proposed action, acquisition of legal rights-of-way would occur, potentially resolving trespass concerns and having a positive impact overall to lands and realty in the planning area.

3.5 Livestock Grazing

3.5.1 Affected Environment

Four grazing permits are potentially affected by the Table Mesa Recreation Plan, including the Tee Allotment, Boulder Creek, Rock Springs, and the Black Canyon Allotment. These allotments include existing range improvements.

3.5.2 Environmental Consequences

3.5.2.1 No Action Alternative

The no action alternative is expected to have a negligible to minor impact on grazing permits within the Table Mesa Plan boundary. Users are responsible for maintaining the integrity of fence lines and must respect gate closures. Range improvements will remain accessible to permitees. Grazing permits would not be altered by any actions of this plan.

3.5.2.2 Proposed Action

Affects are expected to be similar to the No Action Alternative.

The proposed plan is also not expected have a major impact on grazing permits within the Table Mesa Plan boundary. Users are responsible for maintaining the integrity of fence lines and must respect gate closures. Range improvements will remain accessible to permitees via the designation of certain routes as administrative. Grazing permits would not be altered by any actions of this plan.

In the southern portion of the planning area, some (approximately 100 feet) fence line adjustment may be needed in other to align with routes and eliminate the need for gates and cattle guards.

3.5.2.3 Cumulative Impacts

Under both alternatives, cumulative impacts to livestock grazing are anticipated to be negligible.

3.6 Minerals

3.6.1 Affected Environment

Current mineral development in the area is limited to one mineral materials contract located in section 5, T7N, R2E and a part of section 32, T8N, R2E. To date, the operation has produced an approximate 4,500 tons of material, most of which were used as fill material. This contract is due to expire in November 2009 but will be extended for one additional year. To the immediate east of the planning area in section 3, T7N-R2E, is another mineral materials contract. This operation is also a quarry-type operation producing material for the landscape market. To date the company has produced approximately 1.33 million tons valued at $1,363,030. This mineral materials contract is located on split estate land and is due to expire in November 2012. Other mineral related activity in the planning area is casual use and primarily consists of gold panning, metal detecting, and sluicing or suction dredging. These latter activities are commonly

associated with local gold prospecting clubs or groups of people holding association placer claims. It is primarily a recreational activity and the Hassayampa Field Office has authorized Special Recreation Permits for these club activities.

The Table Mesa RMZ encompasses an approximate 11,500 acres with approximately half of this acreage held under federal mining claims. The majority of claims is located in T8N-R2E and is broken down as follows: 28 placer claims totaling 3,140 acres; 47 lode claims totaling 940 acres; and 12 mill-site claims totaling 240 acres. In T7N-R2E the claim breakdown is 27 placer claims totaling 828 acres and 6 lode claims totaling 120 acres. Access to most of these claims is along what has been identified as a "Resource Road." It can generally be characterized as a "cross country," "ranch road" or "two tracker" which in most cases was the result of continued use and not actual road construction. They typically form a spur from one of the more heavily traveled routes in the area and generally are used to gain access to ephemeral washes or the Aqua Fria River. They do in some instances also serve as access to hard rock prospect held under a lode mining claim. With the exception of the two mineral material quarries however, none of these access routes has been authorized under a Notice or Mining Plan of Operation.

3.6.2 Environmental Consequences

3.6.2.1 No Action Alternative

The no action alternative would have little impact on locatable or salable minerals. Because of increasing recreational pressures along the urban interface, the development of mineral material resources will most likely witness a natural decrease in the planning area.

3.6.2.2 Proposed Action

Because the mining operation located in section 5, T7N-R2E and section 32, T8N-R2E is very near the Black Canyon Trail, a National Recreation Trail, continued mining in this area will likely conflict with this and other increasing recreational uses of the land. In order to meet the intent of the Recreation and Travel Management Plan, which is to specifically reduce conflicts, development of this mineral resource will be directed to areas outside of the Table Mesa planning area.

Other mineral related activities, primarily gold panning and other similar casual use activities, are not expected to be majorly/moderately impacted by the Recreation and Travel Management Plan. The closure of primitive routes in sections 16, 21, and 29, T8N-R2E, and section 29, T8N-R2E will leave mining claimants without vehicular access to their claims unless the claimants submit a Notice of Intent or Mining Plan of Operation. The route closures in this instance will impact a total of 22 mining claims encompassing an approximate 1,840 acres. This represents approximately 35% of the area covered by mining claims and because of the apparent need for access; it is likely the permanent closure of these routes may be delayed.

3.6.2.3 Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts on mineral resources under the no action alternative are expected to be negligible. Under the proposed action, cumulative impacts to the mineral resource from will most likely negatively affect the development and sale of mineral materials because of conflict with the intent of the plan, especially when combined with exclusions in place on the Black Canyon Trail.

3.7 Public Safety

3.7.1 Affected Environment

Currently the planning area has several public safety issues occurring. An inventory of existing target shooting sites was conducted in 2008. 42 sites were inventoried at that time. Stray bullets from target shooting are the main safety concern and affects users of both vehicle routes and the non-motorized Black Canyon National Recreation Trail. Trail users and staff in proximity to target shooting sites have reported hearing ricochets and bullets fly overhead. In one location along Table Mesa Road, visitors shoot at and across the Black Canyon Trail, rendering this part of the trail unusable. Night time machine gun fire using tracer rounds has been observed as well as the use of small explosive devices in area causing audible disturbance and alarm to staff and visitors. Excessive trash, some of which is hazardous material or can lead to injury when encountered and conflicts involving verbal exchanges are the notable other safety concerns in the area. No deaths attributable to target shooting have been reported. One death has been investigated and appears to be an act of violence elsewhere resulting in the victim being left in the Table Mesa area. Reports, to BLM of conflict with target shooting have remained steady since approximately 2005. Law enforcement presence is not sufficient to enforce existing laws.

3.7.2 Environmental Consequences

3.7.2.1 No Action Alternative

Continuing the current management of the area would allow dangerous conditions to remain. Target shooting would continue as a dominant use of the central part of the area and would continue to increase in the southern end of the planning area near the old Bonnie Bell mine site where visitors access from New River road.

3.7.2.2 Proposed Action

The proposed action would improve safety conditions through the application of defined buffer zones where shooting would only be allowed at a specified distance from the road where safe conditions exist. The three largest and most popular sites would remain available. Two other known sites would fall outside the buffer zones. The closure and rehabilitation of 38 sites along high use roads and adding a buffers of 200ft along main roads and 1/4mile either side of

Black Canyon trail would provide better assurance of safety to non-shooters. Total area closed to shooting would be 4,583 acres(39%) of the 11,557 acres of BLM land. An indirect effect of implementing the buffers is the displacement of shooters, who may go to other areas or jurisdictions.

3.7.2.3 Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts from the no action alternative are likely to have negligible to minor negative impacts on public safety. Cumulative impacts should be more positive under the proposed plan, due to increased management of public use activities.

3.8 Recreation

3.8.1 Affected Environment

The planning area is the highest visitation area in the Phoenix District. A diversity of recreation activities coexist in this area adding to congestion and safety concerns. The northward movement of the Phoenix metro area combined with a dramatic increase in OHV use, rock crawling and target shooting have overlapped the use of the non-motorized Black Canyon National Recreation Trail. Target shooting is the most prevalent activity along the area's main roads, and recedes quickly away from good roads. Trail based recreation abounds throughout the area and conflicts between non-motor trail users and motorized trail users is increasing throughout this zone.

3.8.2 Environmental Consequences

3.8.2.1 No Action Alternative

Continuing with the current management framework recreation experiences of trail based users would decline, while target shooting would continue and may even increase in use resulting in displacement of other recreation pursuits. New route proliferation would continue and feelings of unfettered access would continue, largely due to a lack of on-the-ground management in ways of dispensing information and enforcement. Trail based recreation experiences would not be maximized due to the uncoordinated existing route system. Target shooters would continue to shoot across roads and trails due to lack of firearm education and not knowing what assets exist within the firearm trajectory. Parking and staging areas are informal and left to the user to define these areas on their own terms and needs, thus expanding the desert footprint. Access to the Agua Fria River would continue and access to Black Canyon City would be maintained via Horseshoe Bar mine road and the stage road south of Rock Springs. The overall recreation experience would not be achieved due to social and physical limitations.

3.8.2.2 Proposed Action

Implementing the proposed action would allow trail based recreation to be maximized. Target shooting would be allowed on 61% of the area while in more sustainable and safe locations. The designation of a route system would organize and direct trail users to coordinated loops where desired experiences could be obtained. Distance from trailheads would be minimized, requiring less travel and time required by visitors, adding to satisfactory recreation experiences. Parking and staging areas would reduce the desert footprint. Camping and picnicking opportunities would provide for more people to enjoy the outdoors in a natural appearing landscape. Technical Vehicle Users, also known as rock crawlers, would receive most of the trails they currently enjoy with exception of those of private land and one known as Armageddon, which goes through a spring. Some area visitors would be displaced due to the increase in management presence through signage, law enforcement and facilities.

3.8.2.3 Cumulative Impacts

A reduction of the desert footprint in an ever expanding use area would accommodate most activities in parking and staging areas placed in strategic areas that would enable safe and easy access to recreation opportunities. More visitors would be attracted to this area as unsafe and non-sustainable conditions would be minimized. Sustainable areas established for specific activities would congregate those of like recreation pursuits in similar areas, thus maximizing these areas and increasing contacts with others.

3.9 Riparian Areas and Wetlands

3.9.1 Affected Environment

The Table Mesa planning area includes 6.6 miles of riparian habitat along the Agua Fria River and 0.9 miles along Cottonwood Gulch as well as riparian habitat associated with several springs and seeps.

3.9.2 Environmental Consequences

3.9.2.1 No Action Alternative

OHV use of riparian areas can impact riparian functional condition by breaking down stream banks, destabilizing the stream channel, destabilizing vegetation, destroying vegetation and potentially introducing exotic plant species. These impacts would continue to degrade the functional condition along 6.6 miles of riparian habitat along the Agua Fria River and Cottonwood Gulch precluding achievement of the Desired Future Conditions and Land Health Standards identified in the Resource Management Plan.

3.9.2.2 Proposed Action

The proposed action would restrict motorized use in the riparian areas to established fords along 6.6 miles of riparian areas. Eliminating motorized use of the stream channels would allow vegetative recruitment, stream channel development and stabilization initiating a trend toward

proper functioning condition, having a greater positive impact on riparian areas and wetlands than in the no action alternative.

3.9.2.3 Cumulative Impacts

Under the proposed action, potential cumulative impacts from motorized vehicle use and recreation activity win areas with riparian resources would be reduced. Under the no action alternative, routes in riparian areas would remain, contributing to the overall degradation of the Agua Fria River riparian corridors.

3.10 Socioeconomic Resources

3.10.1 Affected Environment

The Table Mesa planning area currently plays hosts to many individual recreationists and it is also a common site for visitation by 7 desert off-road tour operators. OHV recreation provides approximately 1.8 billion dollars in taxable income to Maricopa County each year and a total of $223 million dollars of impact in Yavapai County. (Arizona State Parks, 2003)

It is assumed that there are positive economic impacts from hiking, biking, target shooting and other recreational activities in the communities near the Table Mesa Planning area, though none of which are as great as those from OHV-based recreation. No specific revenue data is available for ranching and mining operations located within the planning area.

3.10.2 Environmental Consequences

3.10.2.1 No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, it is expected that tour-related permit holders may request permits in areas north and west to improve customer experiences. Approving permits further from Phoenix could have the effect of reducing tourism income through reduced visitation in New River and Black Canyon City.

Revenue sources generated from mining and ranching activities are expected to remain unchanged under the no action alternative.

3.10.2.2 Proposed Action

The proposed action would have the effect of generally increasing recreation capacity in the planning area, making visitor experiences better and offering the possibility of increasing tourism income for surrounding communities. Overall, the implementation of a comprehensive recreation plan in the table mesa area is expected to provide negligible to minor increases in recreation-related income in both counties. The local communities of Black Canyon City and New River may see small injections of tourist-related income.

Revenue related to ranching is expected to remain similar to the no action alternative.

Revenue related to mining of mineral materials is expected to decline as development of this mineral resource will most likely be directed to areas outside of the Table Mesa planning area in order to avoid conflict with recreation opportunities, especially near the Black Canyon Trail. Revenue related to locatable minerals is expected to remain roughly the same as the no action alternative. The proposed action is not anticipated to have disproportionate effects on low income and minority populations.

3.10.2.3 Cumulative Impacts

Under both alternatives, cumulative impacts on social and economic conditions are anticipated to be positive for the surrounding communities, primarily due to increased interest in recreation in the planning area and surrounding communities.

3.11 Soil Resources

3.11.1 Affected Environment

Soils in the planning area are very diverse, with the area hosting 31 soil types. Seven soil types comprise 78% of the area. The most common soil types are schist hills, clay loam upland, very gravelly sandy loam, limy upland and loamy hills. Currently, disturbance due to the existing route network (including roads, primitive roads, and trails) totals approximately 100 acres.

Many of the routes in the area exhibit erosion on slopes over 10%. Disturbed areas are not recovering due to high use in the area with a trend towards increasing use. Target shooting occurs intensively in areas along main roads. The proliferation of target shooting sites has de-vegetated approximately 40 sites varying from 0.1 to 2 acres in size. Residual lead and other contaminants are present. The extent of deposits is unknown, but is expected to be localized to the sites.

3.11.2 Environmental Consequences

3.11.2.1 No Action Alternative

The effect of continuing the current management would be a slow, continuous loss of soil and productivity due to route proliferation and unmanaged recreation site expansion throughout the area. Soil loss rates are unknown at this time, but the effects are evident on the area routes. Lead and other potential contaminants represent an indirect impact to soils since migration of these materials may occur over time. However, no data on this trend is currently available.

3.11.2.2 Proposed Action

Implementing the proposed action would have the effect of closing and rehabilitation most of the target shooting sites in existence today. Approximately 30 of the 40 known sites would be closed, re-contoured and re-vegetated, thus returning areas to productivity. Addressing

drainage on the designated route system would halt soil loss due to erosion and also stop route proliferation due to the creation of bypass routes around eroded areas. Hardening and fencing high-use recreation sites would eliminate further growth of these sites. Adjacent areas with minimal damage would be allowed to recover and return to productivity.

3.11.2.3 Cumulative Impacts

Under both alternatives, cumulative impacts to soils are likely to be negligible.

3.12 Special Designations – National Trails

3.12.1 Affected Environment

The Black Canyon Trail, a National Recreation Trail, runs the entire length of the planning area. The trail is limited to non-motorized uses only. Staging for the trail occurs at Emery Henderson Trailhead, the informal Table Mesa Road Trailhead and occasionally at the old Little Pan Mine site. Use levels on the trail are expected to increase over the next five years due to population growth of the area and marketing of the trail regionally. Target shooting across the trail and driving motor vehicles on southern road alignments occur frequently. While shooting across the trail is not legal, other legal shooting areas affect trail users by changing the recreation setting near the trail.

3.12.2 Environmental Consequences

3.12.2.1 No Action Alternative

Implementing the no-action alternative would have the effect of continuing to allow vehicles to share the road with the Black Canyon Trail in the southern part of the RMZ. This is inconsistent with overall management objectives of this trail, as outlined in the *Bradshaw-Harquahala ARMP/ROD*. Target shooting would continue near the trail and where it is legal to shoot, the proximity would diminish the experience of many trail users. Many of the conflicts resulting from the trail-user /shooter interface occur as a result of poor target backstop selection, increasing safety risks for area visitors, including Black Canyon Trail users. Two shooting areas off of Table Mesa be closed and rehabilitated as a result of the 2004 EA for BCT realignment. The Little Pan Loop would be the only loop opportunity in the area. Occasional motorized use of the BCT would likely continue.

3.12.2.2 Proposed Action

Implementing the proposed action would structure the area's recreation setting, making it more favorable for trail users. Target shooters would be directed to available areas, all of which are located at least a quarter mile from the trail. Vehicle users would be directed to open routes away from the trail. Trailheads would be improved and two new areas would be developed to increase capacity and define the footprint of staging and camping for long term

sustainability. The overall state of the National Trail is expected to be improved under the plan, as compared to the no action alternative.

3.12.2.3 Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts on the National Trail would be similar to those described for each action alternative.

3.13 Special Status Species

3.13.1 Affected Environment

Bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), a listed threatened species, nest at the northern end of Lake Pleasant, approximately 5 miles downstream of the planning area. Bald eagles may be infrequently seen along the Agua Fria River in the planning area.

The southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), a listed endangered species, has not been documented using the riparian areas within the planning area and are unlikely to occur there. The Agua Fria River through the planning area is subject to frequent scouring flood events and the vegetated floodplain is generally too narrow to develop suitable habitat for the species.

The yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis),* a Federal candidate for listing as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act is found along the Agua Fria River within the planning area. The yellow-billed cuckoo is a migratory bird that occupies cottonwood and willow riparian habitat for nesting and foraging between June and September.

Other Bureau sensitive species likely to occur in the Table Mesa area include Sonoran desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), lowland leopard frog (*Rana yavapaiensis*), Arizona toad (*Bufo microscaphus*) and Hohokam agave (Agave murpheyii). The lowland leopard frog is found around permanent water sources. The Arizona toad may be found along the riparian corridors or associated with any ephemeral water sources in the area. Hohokam agave is generally found in upland areas, often associated with prehistoric, Native American sites.

The tortoise inhabits the rocky slopes and incised washes within the area. The entire planning area has been classified as Category 2 desert tortoise habitat but site specific evaluation of the area has determined that much of the flatter area is not occupied, and likely not used by tortoises.

3.13.2 Environmental Consequences

3.13.2.1 No Action Alternative

Unrestricted motorized use of riparian areas would degrade vegetation and habitat quality for migratory birds, including the yellow-billed cuckoo. Motorized use of the riparian area would

likely disturb birds during the critical nesting season thereby reducing nesting success and recruitment. Motorized use impacts to stream channel stability would degrade the quality of the aquatic habitat used by native fishes and amphibians like the lowland leopard frog and Arizona toad.

In upland areas, motorized routes in tortoise habitat would continue to be a source of mortality and habitat fragmentation. Abundant routes in tortoise habitat also facilitate human interaction with tortoises and increase the potential for illegal collection of these animals, thereby reducing population viability.

This alternative would have no effect on the southwestern willow flycatcher because the area currently does not contain suitable habitat and is unlikely to develop suitable habitat due to the linear nature of the riparian habitat.

3.13.2.2 Proposed Action

The absence of motorized use along the riparian areas would allow vegetative conditions to improve, benefiting migratory birds, including the yellow-billed cuckoo and aquatic species, like the lowland leopard frog and native fish, furthering the conservation of these sensitive species. Limiting vehicle use in the riparian area to designated crossings would substantially reduce disturbance to nesting birds.

Designating motorized routes in upland areas would reduce the degradation of habitat quality for the desert tortoise and allow the natural regeneration of vegetation along closed routes that traverse tortoise habitat. Approximately 3.96 miles of existing 10 foot wide motorized vehicle routes, 4.69 acres, within desert tortoise habitat would be closed and reclaimed. Approximately 1.78 miles of new 10 foot wide motorized routes, 3.55 miles of 3 foot wide single track motorized routes and 5.3 miles of 3 foot wide non-motorized bicycle/equestrian routes, totaling 5.26 acres, would be constructed in desert tortoise habitat. BLM has a no net loss policy for Categories 1 and 2 desert tortoise habitat to the extent practicable, in order to conserve the species. Policy guidance is outlined in IM No. AZ-91-16, *Strategy for Desert Tortoise Habitat Management on Public Lands in Arizona*, IM No. AZ-92-46, the *Strategy for Desert Tortoise Habitat Management on Public Lands in Arizona -- New Guidance on Compensation for the Desert Tortoise* (Compensation Report), IM No. AZ-96-007, *Desert Tortoise Mitigation Policy,* IM No. AZ-99-008, *Supplemental Guidance for Desert Tortoise Compensation, and* IM No. AZ-2009-010, IM AZ-2009-010, *Desert Tortoise Mitigation Policy. Desert tortoise habitat and mitigation requirements*. Refer to Appendix G: Desert Tortoise Policy and Mitigation, for a detailed account of policy and mitigation formula calculations. Mitigation will be necessary to comply with policy.

Route designation described in the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect the bald eagle or the southwestern willow flycatcher. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with this finding in Biological Opinion #22410-05-F-0785, dated December 18, 2006.

3.13.2.3 Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts on special status species – when considering mitigation for tortoise habitat under the proposed action – are likely to be less under the proposed action than under the no action as the proposed plan provides for better protection of wildlife.

3.14 Transportation and Access

3.14.1 Affected Environment

The existing route network consists of 73 miles of existing roads, primitive roads and trails. Public roads in the area include Table Mesa Road and an unnamed road under I-17 at Moore's Gulch. The entrance into the planning area on Table Mesa Road crosses approximately 1.5 miles of Arizona State Trust Land. Table Mesa Road is the primary access to Little Grand Canyon Rancho on private land and Lake Pleasant Regional Park. Access to the planning area from the southeast, south and southwest require crossing Arizona State Trust Land where proper permission to use state trust land is required.

AZCO Mine road provides access to private land and to areas north of this planning area. ADOT has applied for a right-of-way on part of the AZCO Mine road, which would make it a public road. Additionally, ADOT currently holds a right-of-way to develop a public road under I-17 at Moore's Gulch. Only roads authorized under right-of-way grants to land owners or permittees are authorized for regular maintenance. BLM does not maintain any routes in this area. Currently, access across the Agua Fria River is limited to three places, two of which are well known. The crossing near the Gillette townsite is the most popular. It crosses private land owned by two different owners. The second popular crossing is near the Little Pan Mine site and uses only BLM land. This route is rougher and not easily travelled. The third crossing is a lesser known site north of Little Grand Canyon Rancho. The importance of this route is its role in connecting this area with BLM lands immediately west.

Visitors access the Table Mesa from their homes in Black Canyon City (BCC) and New River. Two routes from BCC are currently used and include the Agua Fria River between Black Canyon City and the Gillette Townsite and a mining road due south of Rock Springs. Both routes convene in the Agua Fria River. From New River, visitors access from a New River road on natural gas pipeline road and old mining roads that access a major powerline maintenance road.

The existing route system offers a range of experiences for both motorized and non-motorized users alike. While many of the experiences people seek on the route system are beneficial,

none of the experiences are maximized due to a lack of coordinated looping routes, poor condition and interaction with other visitors that interferes with achievement their desired experience.

3.14.2 Environmental Consequences

3.14.2.1 No Action Alternative

Continuing the current management would allow route proliferation to continue, contribute to resource degradation, and continue the underachievement of visitor experiences. Access across private property would eventually be lost without public access agreements. Areas adjacent to routes where camping and staging occur would become overused due to a lack of hardened sites, resulting in resource impacts and poor visitor experiences. Routes would erode and become increasingly difficult to use over time due to lack of water runoff control and increasing use. Single track motorized users would not have any narrow trails to use under this alternative.

3.14.2.2 Proposed Action

Implementing the travel management and recreation plan would have the effect of managing uses that have a high potential to damage the area resources. With the popularization of the Black Canyon Trail and Off-highway vehicle use, managed, coordinated loop routes would reduce visitor conflict by separating uses. New experiences for all trail based recreation would become available. Building new trails in the core of the area, adjacent to high use camp areas, would improve experiences even as old routes are closed. The proposed action would close 22.9 miles of primitive roads while opening 3.6 miles of new primitive roads, making a loop route of 12-15miles accessible to all vehicles in the central and southern most part of the area. Black Canyon Trail users could also use the new loops to add mileage and interest. 7.5miles of new trail for motorcycles would be opened leading to new motorcycle singletrack experiences in the area. A new Technical Vehicle Site comprising approximately 4.3 acres would be opened, offering a new recreational driving opportunity for specialized 4wd drivers and motorcycle trials.

3.14.2.3 Cumulative Impacts

Under the proposed action, the recreation facilities and route system would be established and related management and maintenance would increase. Use restrictions will be established to protect identified resource values. Impacts of motorized use, traffic, and recreational activity would occur on the designated routes. Growth of the route system through proliferation of user created tracks will be controlled. Under the no action alternative, the route network would not be designated.

3.15 Water Resources

3.15.1 Affected Environment

The Table Mesa Planning area is part of the Middle Gila Watershed. 6.6 miles of the Agua Fria River traverse the northern half of the planning area. The Agua Fria River drains an area of approximately 2,700 square miles in Yavapai and Maricopa counties (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1982). The Agua Fria River is perennial at four places above Lake Pleasant with a combined distance of approximately 21 miles (Arizona Department of Water Quality). Heavy metals contamination and turbidity in the Agua Fria River appear to be caused by abandoned mines and unpermitted sand and gravel operations (Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, 1990). The Agua Fria River feeds into the Lake Pleasant Reservoir, which is a municipal water source. Lake Pleasant has been tested for lead and other pollutants approximately 15-20 times between 2000 and 2004. In tests, it was determined that lead levels did not exceed acceptable lead standards (Interview with AZDWR Water Quality Expert, Steve Pawlowski, 4.15.2009).

Within the Table Mesa planning area, there are two major river crossings on the Agua Fria River, near Gillette and Little Pan Road. In addition to the major river crossings, there are several “sand run” areas where vehicles access the river, along with numerous other access points in which vehicles drive through the river for access or recreation and traverse the river to connect roads.

3.15.2 Environmental Consequences

3.15.2.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, proliferation of river access and potential contamination of water, along with river-bank alteration is expected to continue and is expected to have a negligible to minor impact on local water resources. Lead shot will continue to accumulate in unmanaged target shooting areas, including ephemeral washes.

3.15.2.2 Proposed Action

Under the proposed plan, unregulated river crossings would be reduced and only three river crossings (the two existing crossings and one third crossing) would reduce access to driving in the river, thereby reducing potential contamination and damage to river banks.

The overall negative impacts to local water resources are expected to be negligible under this alternative.

3.15.2.3 Cumulative Impacts

Under both alternatives, cumulative impacts to water resources are anticipated to be negligible.

3.16 Vegetative Communities

3.16.1 Affected Environment

The planning area is within the Arizona Upland Sonoran Desertscrub vegetative community but includes a wetland vegetative community along riparian areas and other water sources. The dominant vegetation in upland areas varies slightly from site to site depending on geology, soils and slope. Common plants present within these areas include, but are not limited to: saguaro, ocotillo, creosote bush, triangle-leaf bursage, ironwood, mesquite, littleleaf paloverde, catclaw acacia, wolfberry, brittlebush, jojoba, barrel cactus, fairy duster, burro bush, white ratany, pencil cholla, hedgehog cactus, desert marigold, prickly pear cactus, flattop buckwheat, mormon tea, staghorn cholla, crucifixion thorn, big galleta grass and various 3-awn grasses. Wetland plants associated with streams and springs include Fremont cottonwood, Goodding's willow, seep willow, bulrush and sedges.

Invasive plant species present in the planning area include Bermuda grass, fountain grass, rabbit's foot grass and salt cedar, in riparian areas and near springs, Sahara mustard in disturbed areas and bufflegrass along roadways.

3.16.2 Environmental Consequences

3.16.2.1 No Action Alternative

Motorized use of riparian areas would continue to destabilize soils and destroy vegetation along 6.6 miles of stream channels.

In upland areas, motorized use of existing routes would continue and route proliferation is likely as new routes continue to be established.

In both riparian and upland areas, motorized use in addition to disturbing the areas can introduce and facilitate the expansion of invasive plant species.

3.16.2.2 Proposed Action

In riparian areas, 6.6 miles of stream channel would be closed to motorized vehicles, eliminating associated impacts to the vegetation.

In upland areas, a total of 30.3 acres, would be closed and reclaimed while 11.9 acres of new disturbance would occur to develop new motorized and non-motorized routes. A net decrease in 18.4 acres of disturbed areas would result from the proposed action.

Parking and staging areas are located in previously disturbed areas, hence new vegetative destruction would be minimal.

3.16.2.3 Cumulative Impacts

Under both alternatives, cumulative impacts to vegetation resources are anticipated to be negligible.

3.17 Visual Resources

BLM Visual Resources are classified into four categories:

- Class I: The objective of this class is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. This class provides for natural ecological changes; however, it does not preclude very limited management activity. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.
- Class II: The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.
- Class III: The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.
- Class IV: The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements.

3.17.1 Affected Environment

The Table Mesa Planning is classified as VRM Class II and Class III. Class II visual resources occur near the Agua Fria River, in the northern and western portion of the planning area. Additional Class II visual resources occur in the southern portion of the planning area. Land classified as Class III within the planning area occurs closest to Table Mesa Road and the preponderance of existing popular target shooting areas.

VRM analysis was conducted and can be found in Appendix F: Visual Resource Inventory. Three key observation points (KOP) were chosen to provide a view of the project area from Table Mesa Road and the southernmost section of the Mica Mine Road. Table Mesa Road leads to

the upper arm of Lake Pleasant County Park, the Upper Agua Fria Conservation Area which will attract motorists and the Mica Mine Road provides access to the major portions of this RMZ. Global Positioning technology was used to record UTMs and elevation.

3.17.2 Environmental Consequences

3.17.2.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, negligible to minimal negative impacts to visual resources may be seen in the Class II areas in the southern portion of the planning area, where some target shooting sites are proliferating. Impacts would be in the form of trash and degradation of vegetation and the landscape from target shooting.

3.17.2.2 Proposed Action

The proposed action would include construction of some facilities, all within visual resource Class III classifications. The presence of these facilities is expected to have a negligible to minor impact on visual resource Class II. The overall visual landscape of the planning area is expected to be improved under this alternative, as compared to the no action alternative.

3.17.2.3 Cumulative Impacts

Construction of amenities would be minimized mainly to the Class III. Overall, the desert landscape would be maintained because visitors would be directed to concentrate use rather than spreading it out over the landscape. The least cumulative impact is anticipated to come from this alternative and would be compatible with the character of the zone.

4 TRIBES, INDIVIDUALS, AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

- Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
- Arizona Department of Transportation
- Arizona Department of Water Resources
- Arizona Game and Fish Department
- Arizona OHV Coalition
- Arizona Rock Crawlers
- Arizona State Lands Department
- Arizona Virtual Jeep Club
- Black Canyon Trail Coalition
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation
- Mr. Greg Gearing – Interested Citizen
- Mr. Tim Grant – Landowner
- Mr. Nate Holland – Advanced Resource Solutions
- Mr. Ben Kugler – Interested Citizen
- Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department
- Mr. Robert Morales – Landowner
- Mr. Zev Nadler – Desert Wolf Tours
- The National Rifle Association
- Mr. Richard Shaw – Rock Springs Cafe
- Table Mesa Area Coalition
- Tohono O'odham Nation
- Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe

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- Byron Lambeth — Lead Range Specialist
- Teresa Makinen — Facilitator
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- Mike Rice — Geologist
- Mary Skordinsky — Outdoor Recreation Planner
- Connie Stone — Associate Manager, Hassayampa Field Office
- J.A. Vacca — Wildlife Biologist

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APPENDIX A:
RECREATIONAL TARGET SHOOTING LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE

Recreational target shooting has increased in popularity on BLM-managed lands as the population in Central Arizona has increased and availability of land to shoot on has decreased. BLM land is, for the most part, open to recreational target shooting. Public lands are shared by many users. It is imperative the target shooter select a shooting site that is both safe to other public land users and considerate of natural resources. The following discussion includes criteria for selection of safe and considerate shooting sites.

It is the ultimate responsibility of the recreational target shooter to ensure the projectiles they fire are contained within the shooting site they select. While shooting is allowed in most public land areas, the shooter should make no concession concerning safety. Consideration of other people using public lands is not only considerate, *Arizona Revised Statutes Title 13-1201* says:

(A). A person commits endangerment by recklessly endangering another person with a substantial risk of imminent death or physical injury.

(B). Endangerment involving a substantial risk of imminent death is a class six felony. In all other cases, it is a class one misdemeanor.

Therefore, it is paramount that shooters continually evaluate their shooting activities and the requirements necessary to ensure those activities can be conducted with projectile/bullet containment as a primary goal.

General considerations for selecting a suitable shooting site include the following:

- Make sure you have a safe backstop. That means you can see where the bullets are hitting behind the target. A hill or pushed-up berm of dirt is perfect. Remember that bullets can ricochet off flat surfaces—that includes rocks, dirt and water. Put your targets right in front of the backstop to ensure your bullets stop in the dirt. (Detailed guidelines for backstops and side berms can be found below.)
- Select a site that doesn't put others at risk. Do not shoot towards or across areas where other people congregate such as hiking trails, vehicle parking and staging areas, and trail heads. It is a violation of Arizona State law (*A.R.S. 17-301B*) to shoot across a maintained road. Though this law only pertains to maintained roads, there are many routes in the desert that are used by motorcycles, quads, and four-wheel drive vehicles that are not as apparent as a maintained road. Shooting in the direction, or across them, though not a violation of the reference law, could be just as dangerous to people using them.

Choose a site that avoids shooting across or towards motorcycle, quad, or four-wheel-drive routes as well.

- In addition to motorized routes, there are many popular hiking, bicycling and equestrian trails. Select a site that doesn't cross or shoot in the direction of a trail that could put people at risk.
- Selection of a safe shooting site would include staying more than ¼ mile from any residence or occupied structure. When selecting a site, assume any structure is occupied. It is a violation of Arizona State Law to knowingly discharge a firearm at a structure. The statue (*A.R.S 13-1211A and B*) says:

  (A). A person who knowingly discharges a firearm at a residential structure is guilty of a class two felony.

  (B). A person who knowingly discharges a firearm at a nonresidential structure is guilty of a class three felony.

- Selection of a site should include avoiding such improvements as wildlife or livestock water facilities, livestock control facilities such as corrals and fences, signs or kiosks installed to provide information, barns or other rural developments, or any other improvement that was not specifically designed to be shot at.
- It is a violation of Arizona State law (*A.R.S. 13-1603A 1)* if a person "Throws, places, drops or permits to be dropped on public property or property of another which is not a lawful dump any litter, destructive or injurious material which he does not immediately remove." This includes not only trash, but also brass or shells (including shotgun shells) from spent ammunition and items used as targets. Shooters are required to remove any targets, items on which targets are mounted, and brass from spent ammunition. BLM Phoenix District policy is to only use targets that do not produce litter, and to remove them when you are finished shooting.
- Under the Code of Federal Regulations (*43 CFR 8365.2-5(a)*) no person shall "Discharge or use firearms..." on a developed recreation site. *43 CFR 8360.0-5(c)* defines "Developed Recreation Sites and Areas" as "...sites and areas that contain structures or capital improvements primarily used by the public for recreation purposes. Such sites or areas may include such features as: delineated spaces for parking, camping or boat launching; sanitary facilities; potable water; grills or fire rings; or controlled access."

Selecting sites with side berms and backstops is optional where the shooter can be assured of safe shooting 1.5 miles downrange for pistol or 3.5 miles downrange for high powered rifles, with appropriate left and right ricochet safety zones. With the popularity of public lands for recreation and other uses, this scenario is the exception rather than the rule. Therefore, the

primary purpose for selection of backstops and side berms is to protect against the injury of people, the damage of property or both.

The type of firearms being fired and the shooting activity being conducted will dictate the extent of the backstops, side berms and safety fans required to achieve that goal.

A downrange safety fan is an area beyond the backstop and side berms that is free of people or property that can be injured or damaged by errant bullets. It is important to remember that, depending on the suitability of the backstop and side berms, a safety fan downrange will be required to assure a safe shooting area. Below are ideal specifications for both backstops and side berms. Sites with less than ideal backstops and side berms must have increasingly longer downrange safety fans, approaching the distances described above of 1.5 miles for pistols and 3.5 miles for high power rifles. Even with an ideal backstop and side berms, site selection should still consider downrange safety and a downrange safety fan.

The characteristics of safe backstops and berms recognized as needed for safe shooting practices are as follows:

- Height. Preferred backstops include naturally occurring hills or mountainsides, or steep-sided wash banks. Backstops of soft dirt are preferred over hard surfaces, and rocky slopes should be avoided as they create a high ricochet hazard. A minimum height of 15 feet is acceptable but 20 to 25 feet is recommended. Remember that bullet ricochet can happen even on the best backstop. Site selection should consider ricochet possibilities and backstops that exceed 20 to 25 feet should be chosen where possible to reduce ricochet away from the shooting area.
- Width/Length. The width of the backstop should be at least as wide as it is high. Targets should be placed directly in front of or on the backstop with sufficient backstop on either side to catch bullets. Ideally, side berms should be the same height and the full length of the shooting area from the backstop to even with the firing line.
- Slope. The range side slope (side facing the shooter) must be as steep as possible, but not less than a 45-degree slope (a ratio of one-to-one). Side berm slops should have the same dimensions.

Remember, even with the perfect backstop and side berms, finding a suitable shooting area must include a safety fan beyond the backstop.

The bottom line is to select a shooting site in harmony with adjacent properties and other public land users. The site should prevent adjacent properties and other public land users from experiencing any risk from the shooters activities. The overall responsibility of the shooter is to stop fired bullets before they exit the selected shooting area. It is the intention of the BLM to

provide a safe and pleasant experience for any public land user. If shooting areas emerge that are contrary to the above criteria they will be clearly construed as putting other public land users at risk and they may be closed to shooting by the authorized officer, either temporarily or permanently.

As the demand for recreation shooting grows along with the demand for other recreation opportunities, the need may arise to identify and designate areas as shooting ranges.
Many locations within the planning area would be suitable for this use and could provide a safe and enjoyable shooting experience. Identification and future management would be defined through further site specific planning and analysis.

APPENDIX B:
SHOOTING SITE RAPID ASSESSMENT INVENTORY

Recreation Shooting Rapid Site Inventory form

Site #	Location 1	Location 2	Land ownership	gross size acr	compass direction shooting	trash dumping level	resource concerns or damage	good natural backstop	access from a good road	safety for non-shooting public	safety issue / other explained	desirable location for shooters	possibility of improving safety	materials available on-site for berms/backstop	dominant firearm use	vehicle route in path of fire	conflicting use currently	conflict explanation	notes	photo#1	photo#2	photo#3
S-1			State Trust Land	(not shown on maps due to being on state land)																		
S-2	N33°59.165'	W112°09.207'	BLM	1.00	NE, NW	High	Moderate	exists	good	could be hazard	Anyone hiking/riding the wash could be at risk today. Wash route is proposed for closure. An ATV route is planned to cut through this area to allow loop route avoiding travel on Table Mesa Road.	high	low	yes	shotgun	yes	yes	Hiking/riding in wash	In large wash, subject to flooding and trash washing downstream(lead concerns need more study). ATV trail is proposed to go through this area - needed to keep unlicensed vehicles off of Table Mesa Rd.	8298	8299	
S-3	N33°59.134'	W112°09.385'	BLM	1.00	N, NE	Moderate	Moderate	exists	good	could be hazard	Shoots towards a road. Road could be closed to eliminate conflict.	high	high	some	shotgun, pistol, rifle	yes	yes	Road nearby	Natural backstop is not very tall (10 ft approx.) and has a low slope, not much natural(on site material to build berms. AGFD thinks the existing site could accommodate 100 yards distance and be widened to allow 20-40 people. Cost would be 50 to 60k to start, with total cost being $190K. It could be done with AGFD and BLM force account and rented equipment or contracted. Would be more difficult to build here than other sites.	1862	1863	1864
S-4	N33°59.057'	W112°09.361'	BLM	2.00	SE	High	High	exists	good	good today	N/A	high	high	yes	shotgun, pistol, rifle	no	no	N/A	Very suitable for development	1865	1867	
S-5	N33°58.950'	W112°09.653'	BLM	4.00	SE	Moderate	Moderate	exists	good	could be hazard	road nearby	moderate	moderate	some	shotgun	yes	yes	Road nearby	High cost to develop, no secondary backstop, proximity and BCT, shooting occurs across a wash subject to flooding	1868	1870	
S-6	N33°59.067'	W111°09.952'	BLM	0.50	SE	Moderate	Moderate	exists (not very good)	good	hazard exists	Road in wash where people shoot.	low	never safe	some	shotgun	yes	yes	Wash, trail	Not suitable for development due to already downward grade, road and wash. High cost to develop due to little material on site. Currently backstop too far away to be effective. Saguaros in firing path. An ATV trail is proposed to go through this area. Trail is needed to keep unlicensed vehicles off of Table Mesa Rd.	1871	1873	
S-7	N33°59.033'	W112°11.136'	BLM	0.50	S	Moderate	Moderate	exists	moderate	hazard exists	Currently a rock crawling play area. AGFD does driver training at this site also.	moderate	low	some	shotgun	yes	yes	Rock crawling, AGFD driver training	Not suitable for development. Occupied houses within 1 mile. High cost to develop due to limited material on site, limited parking. This site is in a wash subject to flooding. The Agua Fria River is about .5 miles away. Consider rock crawling safety.	1874	1875	1876
S-8	N33°59.269'	W112°08.876'	BLM	0.50	W	Low	Low	exists	good	hazard exists	shoots toward road (Table Mesa area)	low	moderate	some	pistol, shotgun	yes	yes	Road	Black Canyon Trail in shooting path, high cost to develop so not suitable for development. Shooting toward road and site #1, BCT has since been re-routed in this area although signs still exist.	1877	1878	1879
S-9	N33°59.453'	W112°08.782'	BLM	0.25	S	Moderate	Low	exists	moderate	hazard exists	shoots toward road	moderate	moderate	some	pistol, rifle	yes	yes	Generally shoots towards Table Mesa Road(richochet or over the berm shooting concern).	Poor firing direction towards Table Mesa Road, somewhat unsafe. The access road is being planned as a main loop trail for ATVs. Richochet/general shooting hazard would be amplified by increasing non-shooting traffic on this route.	1880	1881	1882
S-10	N33°59.508'	W112°08.731'	BLM	0.25	SE	High	Moderate	exists	moderate	hazard exists	shooting towards I-17 and Table Mesa Rd	moderate	moderate	some	shotgun	yes	no	Bad direction	Shooting direction toward I-17 pipeline and Table Mesa Road	1883	1884	1885
S-11	N33°59.515'	W112°08.905'	BLM	0.50	W	Moderate	Moderate	exists	good	hazard exists	shoots toward a road, power lines	low	moderate	some	pistol	yes	yes	road	small local value road on back site under powerline	1886	1887	1888
S-12	N33°59.676'	W112°08.919'	BLM	1.00	W	High	Moderate	exists	good	good today	N/A	high	high	yes	pistol, rifle, shotgun	no	no	N/A	suitable for development	1889	1890	1891
S-13	N33°59.808'	W112°09.061'	BLM	2.00	S	Moderate	Moderate	exists	good	could be hazard	Main issue is reported richochet from site 12. Additionally, shoots toward a road, power lines	high	high	yes	shotgun	yes	yes	Site 12 richochets, general concern - shoots towards Table Mesa Road (?/8mi away).	Development would be high cost due to filling in wash to make site usable(404 permit issues also). Shoots toward TM road, powerline. This site shoots across a wash subject to flooding. Deeply incised wash could pose a hazard to shooters who are out of site. Would need mitigation to improve safety. Richochet problem at site 12 would need to be solved to make it a viable site - developed or not.	1892	1893	1894
S-14	N33°59.849'	W112°09.175'	BLM	1.00	SW	Moderate	Moderate	exists	good	could be hazard	conflict with site 12 (cross fire situation), reports of richochets from site 12.	moderate	moderate	yes	shotgun	yes	yes	site 12	Same issues as site 13 - high cost, wash (404 permit issues if developed). Richochets from site 12.	1895	1896	1897

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Recreation Shooting Rapid Site Inventory form

Site #	Location 1	Location 2	Land ownership	gross size acr	compass direction shooting	trash dumping level	resource concerns or damage	good natural backstop	access from a good road	safety for non-shooting public	safety issue / other explained	desirable location for shooters	possibility of improving safety	materials available on-site for berms/backstop	dominant firearm use	vehicle route in path of fire	conflicting use currently	conflict explanation	notes	photo#1	photo#2	photo#3
S-15	N33°59.66'	W112°09.409'	BLM	0.50	SW	Low	Moderate	nonexistent	moderate	could be hazard	road in distance, house 1.5 miles away in line of fire (Little Grand Canyon Rancho)	moderate	moderate	no	pistol, shotgun	no	no	N/A	This site shoots into a wash subject to flooding. Trash could travel in wash. Lead may be an issue, needs more study.	1897	1898	1899
S-16	N33°59.845'	W112°09.72'	BLM	0.25	NW	Moderate	Low	exists	moderate	could be hazard	road on hill nearby (backstop)	low	moderate	no	pistol	yes	yes	rock hounding on the hill that is the back stp , red and yellow jasper	This site shoots across a large wash that leads to the Agua Fria River. Trash could travel to the river. Lead may be an issue - needs more study.	1900	1901	1902
S-17	N33°59.762'	W112°10.148'	BLM	0.25	NW	Low	Low	exists	moderate	could be hazard	Rockhounding on backstop hill	low	low	no	pistol, rifle, shotgun	yes	yes	rock hounding on the hill that is the back stp , red and yellow jasper	This site shoots across a large wash that leads to the Agua Fria River. Lead could travel to the river.	1903	1904	1905
S-18	N34°00.319'	W112°09.970'	BLM	0.10	SW	Low	Low	exists	moderate	could be hazard	Rockhounding on backstop hill	moderate	low	no	pistol, rifle, shotgun	yes	yes	Rock hounding on the hill that is the back stp , red and yellow jasper	Not enough size to this site to improve it for safety; not suitable for further development; Access to site on Little Pan Mine Rd in fair condition; all rock backstop could be costly to improve and be difficult to make safe from richochets.	1906		
S-19	N34°00.937'	W112°10.311'	BLM	3.00	N	Low	High	exists	moderate	hazard exists	General camping area with little definition of shooting direction	low	high	yes	pistol, rifle, shotgun	yes	no	Road on lower terrace of old pit	This area planned for developed camp site.	1907	1908	1909
S-20	N34°00.972'	E112°10.429'	BLM	1.00	NW	Low	High	exists	poor	good today	N/A	low	low	some	shotgun	no	yes	riparian recovery vs shooting	Some people drive in Agua Fria river(undesireable condition for management). Backstop is rock wall not good for lead retention or controlling richochets.	1910	1911	1912
S-21			Private land	(not shown on maps due to being on private land)																-	-	-
S-22	N33°59.808'	W112°08.815'	BLM	0.50	E	Moderate	Low	nonexistent	good	hazard exists	Shooting towards I-17 (400-800yds away). Only a low rise hill separates this site from I-17.	moderate	never safe	no	pistol, rifle, shotgun	yes	Yes	Shooting over small rise at I-17	Shooting toward I-17. This is a very unsafe place to shoot due to orientation to I-17	1916	1917	1918
S-23	N33°58.746'	W112°11.153'	BLM	1.50	S	Moderate	Moderate	nonexistent	poor	good today	N/A	low	high	yes	pistol, rifle, shotgun	no	no	Saguaros in firing path, Williams Mesa in background	The road needs improvement to access the site. The range would need to be reconfiured to add barriers, site is good for this activity. Could include a shotgun area to the side since site is fairly level.	1919	1920	1921
S-24	UTM N3762125	UTM E392086	BLM	0.50	W	Moderate	Low	exists	moderate	could be hazard	Road goes up backstop. Motorcycle trails planned for the backstop area	low	low	some	pistol, rifle, shotgun	yes	no	Saguaros in area, backstop 1/4 mile away; not very desireable due to shooting toward Agua Fria / Road	This site shoots across a main wash and towards a known rock hound area.	-	-	-
S-25	UTM N3764904	UTM E391446	BLM	0.50	S	Low	Moderate	exists	moderate	good today	In wash that leads to Agua Fria River	low	low	no	pistol, rifle, shotgun	no	no	N/A	Not suitable for development. Can't do much to add berms or other engineering.	-	-	-
S-26	UTM N3760992	UTM E393231	BLM	0.00	SE	N/A	N/A	nonexistent	good	N/A	This site was evaluated as a new site in an attempt to replace shooting sites which would be closed. It was identified on a map, then field checked. It has no possibility of being developed due to rugged terrain.	high	low	some	N/A	no	no	N/A	New site to east of #4 would be expensive ($1-2 M) No material on site, 2 deep washes and P/L. It's possible, but undesireable. See photos 9-11.	-	-	-
S-27	N33°58.884'	112°10.343'	BLM	0.50	SE	Low	Low	exists	moderate	good today	N/A	moderate	high	yes	shotgun	no	no	Needs to have road improved if site is to be improved. Large ruts prevent 2WD traffic	A lightly used site. This site is easy to get in and out of off of Table Mesa Road. Safey would be good and lots of material is available on site. Across from Gold Boulder Mine pit.	1919	1920	1921
S-28	N33°58.746'	W112°11.153'	BLM	1.50	S	Moderate	Low	exists	poor	good today	N/A	low	high	yes	pistol, rifle, shotgun	yes	no	Very good, large butte for backstop	This is a good, safe location as is. Should be added to the list of safe shooting locations.	1922	1923	1924
S-29	UTM N3763598	UTM E393700	BLM	1.00	N	Moderate	Moderate	nonexistent	moderate	could be hazard	campsite/road on hill behind this site	moderate	moderate	yes	pistol, rifle, shotgun	yes	yes	Private property within 100yds	Near private property property / chain link enclosure	1853	1854	1855

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Recreation Shooting Rapid Site Inventory form

Site #	Location 1	Location 2	Land ownership	aprox size acr	compass direction shooting	trash dumping level	resource concerns or damage	good natural backstop	access from a good road	safety for non-shooting public	safety issue / other explained	desirable location for shooters	possibility of improving safety	materials available on-site for berms/backstop	dominant firearm use	vehicle route in path of fire	conflicting use currently	conflict explanation	notes	photo#1	photo#2	photo #3
S-30	UTM N3761378	UTM E390564	BLM	0.50	N	Low	Moderate	exists	moderate	could be hazard	Black Canyon Trail about 3/4 mi. away to N.	low	moderate	some	pistol	no	yes	Close to private property. May be within 1/4 mi of buildings	Near Little Grand Canyon Ranch	8300	8301	8302
S-31	UTM N3763561	UTM E392150	BLM	1.00	SW	Moderate	Low	exists	good	could be hazard	shooting from the road, richochet hazard and shooting across road to extend distance	low	low	some	pistol, shotgun	no	no	N/A	One car pullout adjacent to road (Little Pen Mine Rd)	8286	8287	8288
S-32	UTM N3754627	UTM E390886	BLM	1.00	N	Low	Low	exists	moderate	could be hazard	Several roads are accessed through this site	moderate	low	some	pistol, rifle, shotgun	yes	yes	Existing routes accessed through site	A loop route is planned to go through this site. New targets are visible half way up the backstop mountain. richochets/misses may go over top of backstop.	-	-	-
S-33	UTM N3760170	UTM E390611	BLM	0.50	S	Low	Low	exists	poor	good today	N/A	low	moderate	some	pistol, shotgun	no	no	Very rocky, dirt is very loamy and soft when it rains	The drainage beyond the flat area is more pronounced here than the site to west. Heavy rock appears to be a barrier to any development; Very little flat ground to place targets, richochet hazard for targets placed on boulders.	8303	8304	8305
S-34	UTM N3761212	UTM E391548	BLM	0.50	NE	N/A	N/A	nonexistent	no access today	hazard exists	Shoots toward Black Canyon Trail	never safe	never safe	some	N/A	no	yes	Can see this site from the Black Canyon Trail.	Site is within an active gravel pit. Location was mapped previous to mining operation. Site is inaccessible.	-	-	-
S-35	UTM N3761389	UTM E393860	BLM	0.50	S	Moderate	Moderate	exists	poor	could be hazard	Richochet hazard towards Table Mesa Rd	moderate	moderate	yes	pistol, rifle, shotgun	yes	yes	Power line above, shoots into a small wash at base of hill.	An ATV trail is proposed near this site. Trail is needed to keep unlicensed vehicles off of Table Mesa Rd.	1861	1862	
S-36	UTM N3762467	UTM E394127	BLM	0.50	W, NW	Moderate	Moderate	exists	good	could be hazard	People driving on A2CO road behind shooters could experience richochets. Also, shooting parallel to powerline road lacks good backstop.	moderate	low	some	pistol, rifle, shotgun	yes	no	Along a power pole road (goes north).	Appears that most people shoot down into small canyon, but some are shooting to the north adj. to P/L Road. Canyon is rocky (Richochet hazard).	1850	1851	1852
S-37	UTM N3761674	UTM E393989	BLM	0.50	SW, W	Moderate	Low	exists	good	good today	If ATV trail is developed nearby, site would shoot towards new trail.	high	high	yes	pistol	yes	no	Power line tower access road and road to another shooting site (#11)	This site's access road (a tower access road) would be in accessible if site #11 was improved. The route to this site was not inventoried initially. Site appear	8289	8290	8291

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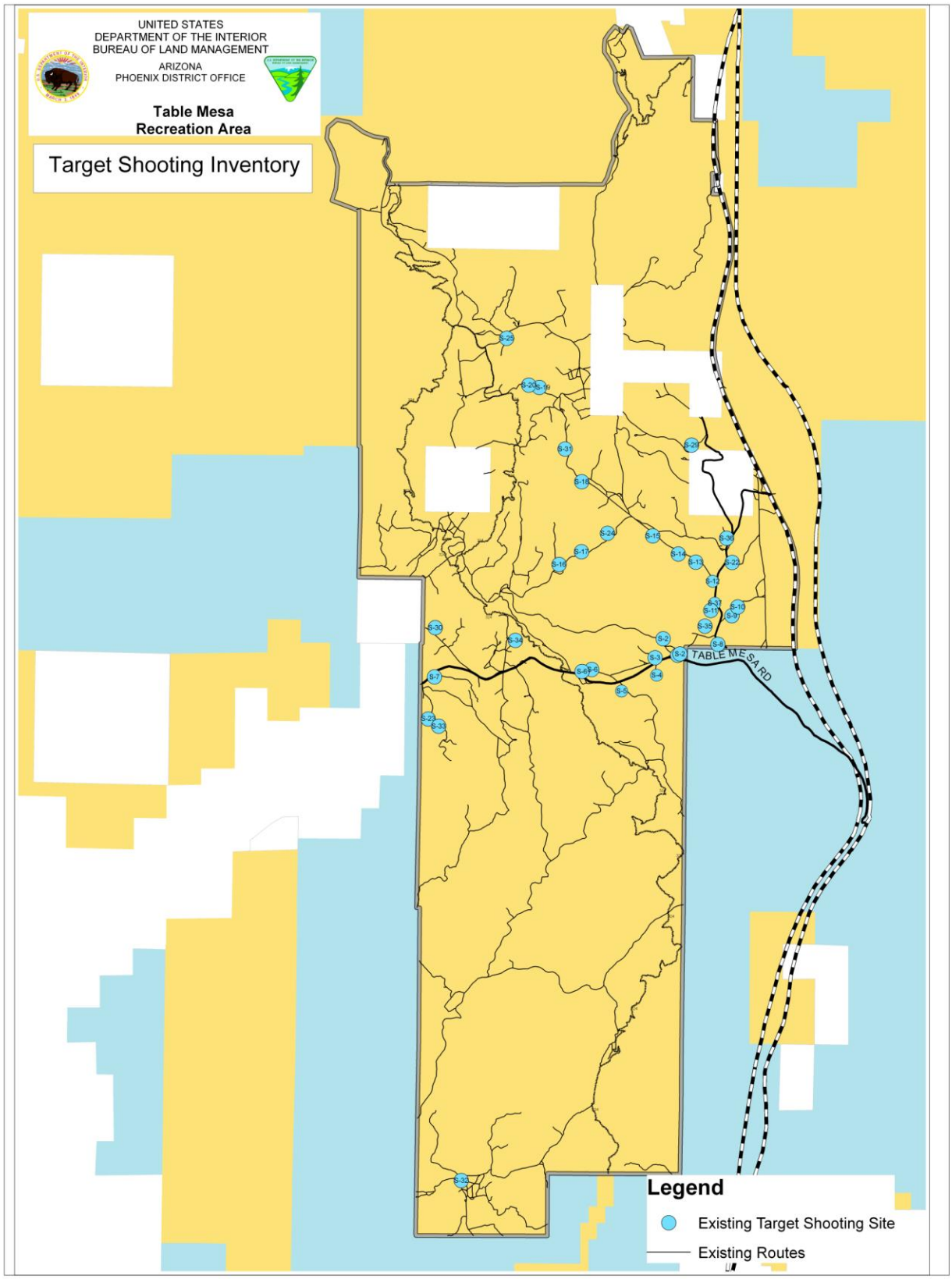

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ARIZONA
PHOENIX DISTRICT OFFICE
Table Mesa
Recreation Area
Target Shooting Inventory
TABLE MESA RD
Legend
Existing Target Shooting Site
Existing Routes

APPENDIX C:
ARIZONA RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL (RAC) OHV GUIDELINES

The Arizona BLM oversees a Resource Advisory Council (RAC) comprised of citizens from around the state representing various interests and geographic areas. The RAC formed a subcommittee to study policy and create suggested guidelines to address recreation management. The extent possible and considering current policy, Arizona BLM attempts to use these guidelines in the preparation of plans such as Travel Management Plans. The following guidelines represent the recommendations from the RAC that have been incorporated into BLM's planning.

Arizona BLM Guidelines for Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Recreation Management
February 24, 2007

Introduction

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) recreation, as well as commercial use, has become increasingly more popular and prevalent on public lands. Arizona's population growth has placed ever greater demands on outdoor recreation opportunities, and BLM managed public lands are frequently the premier outdoor destination for both urban and rural recreational users. The range of OHV users includes not only the dirt bike, all-terrain vehicle (ATV), and four wheel drive jeep riders, but also recreationists such as hikers, hunters, and birders who use OHVs such as sport utility vehicles (SUVs) and pickup trucks to access their favorite hiking, hunting, or bird-watching destination. Thus, OHV recreation spans virtually all recreational uses of the public lands. Recognizing the growing significance of OHV use, the Bureau of Land Management, Washington, DC office, published the National Strategy for Motorized Off-Highway Vehicle Use on Public Lands, dated January, 2001. The National Strategy emphasizes that the BLM should be proactive in seeking motorized OHV management solutions that conserve natural resources while providing for appropriate motorized recreation opportunities. Soon after publication of the 2001 Strategy, BLM realized that it must manage all modes of travel. Public land users travel by a variety of modes: motorized, mechanized, animal, pedestrian and over water and snow. However, the most critical travel management priority currently facing the Arizona BLM is OHV recreation. Thus, this set of guidelines will deal primarily with OHV recreational use and actions necessary to assure rangeland health, as well as broader, more strategic OHV recreation management implementation strategies.

These guidelines were developed in a collaborative process with the Arizona Resource Advisory Council (RAC) similar to the process that resulted in the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration (USDI 1997) (copy included at the Appendix to these OHV Guidelines).

The OHV guidelines are presented in two sections. The first section addresses OHV guidelines that directly relate to the Arizona BLM rangeland health standards. Each standard is listed along with its associated OHV guidelines. As a comparison, see Appendix which defines the Grazing Guidelines, developed in 1997. These OHV guidelines deal primarily with on-the-ground actions necessary to assure that OHV use and travel activities are managed in a manner to assure achievement of the rangeland health standards, or that significant progress is being made toward attainment. Inherent in the application of these guidelines is the need to conduct monitoring and evaluation of their effectiveness. Through adaptive management, new or modified guidelines may be required to enable attainment of the rangeland health standards. Specific application of the rangeland health standards and OHV guidelines will be governed by the Resource Management Plan.

The second section addresses a broader and more strategic set of OHV recreation management implementation strategies that are largely derived from the BLM National OHV Strategy (USDI 2001) and consider OHV "best practices" adopted by other western states. These strategies identify successful practices for managing OHV recreation, including user education and outreach, land use planning considerations, OHV partnerships, route maintenance, law enforcement and monitoring, and visitor services information.

These guidelines and implementation strategies are intended to provide an initial toolbox for management of OHV recreation on Arizona BLM public lands. Recognizing the dynamic nature of OHV recreation, this document may be modified or augmented in the future as dictated by lessons learned from field offices' implementation.

I. Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Management of OHV Use

A. Standard 1: Upland Sites

Upland soils exhibit infiltration, permeability, and erosion rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate and landform (ecological site).

Criteria for meeting Standard 1:

Soil conditions support proper functioning of hydrologic, energy, and nutrient cycles. Many factors interact to maintain stable soils and healthy soil conditions, including appropriate amounts of vegetative cover, litter, and soil porosity and organic matter. Under proper functioning conditions, rates of soil loss and infiltration are consistent with the potential of the site. Ground cover in the form of plants, litter or rock is present in pattern, kind, and amount sufficient to prevent accelerated erosion for the ecological site; or ground cover is increasing as determined by monitoring over an established period of time.

Signs of accelerated erosion are minimal or diminishing for the ecological site as determined by monitoring over an established period of time.
As indicated by such factors as:

- Ground Cover
- litter
- live vegetation, amount and type (e.g., grass, shrubs, trees, etc.)
- rock
- Signs of erosion
- flow pattern
- gullies
- rills
- plant pedestaling

Exceptions and exemptions (where applicable): none

OHV Guidelines:

1-1. Route Design and Location. Locate and manage OHV travel use to conserve soil functionality, vegetative cover, and watershed health. Consider the following factors when designing and locating roads, primitive roads, and trails (hereafter referred to as routes) or when approving/designating existing routes for inclusion in a transportation plan:

- Grade: Routes should be designed to cross any slopes rather than go straight up or down the fall line. Grade should not exceed 50% of the cross slope of the area being crossed to avoid channeling water. To the extent practicable, route grade should change frequently enough to diminish or dissipate the erosive energy of overland water flow.
- Water Control: Water control structures should be incorporated into the route grade. Construct or reconstruct routes with rolling dips, undulating route design or route grade breaks.
- Location: Main route networks should disperse users away from environmentally sensitive or heavily used areas. Locate routes on stable soils and avoid areas with highly erosive soils. Avoid route proliferation by designing routes with adequate mileage distance, suitable access to desired destinations, and diversity of experiences. Use signs and barriers to delineate approved routes.
- Curves and Switchbacks: Turns and curves can be used as a design feature to reduce sight distances, increase difficulty and therefore control speed. When multiple turns are necessary to gain elevation in steep country, use climbing turns rather than switchbacks if possible. Climbing turns have a longer radius, are preferentially used to maintain route integrity and soil stability, and provide for a more useable and enjoyable turn.
- Vegetation and Clearing: The type of clearing on a route can also be used to maintain route integrity, control speed or increase the level of difficulty on a route. To protect

against erosion and to maintain natural conditions, leave trees and woody vegetation in place where possible. Narrow routes provide a better rider experience and minimize loss of soil cover and vegetation.

1-2. Route Maintenance. Regular maintenance, condition assessment, and monitoring are key to controlling erosion and protecting desired soil conditions. Erosion problems such as head-cuts should be addressed early on and may require route re-construction or rehabilitation.

1-3. Route Stabilization and Hardening. Use stabilization materials to repair and improve tread integrity.

1-4. Re-vegetation (or Reclamation). Where land use plan/implementation decisions dictate closure of non-system routes, re-vegetate closed routes using natural materials. Some routes may be suitable for natural reclamation (e.g. already reclaiming routes), therefore no re-vegetation would be required. Employ vertical mulching to the visual horizon, where appropriate.

B. Standard 2: Riparian-Wetland Sites

Riparian-wetland areas are in properly functioning condition.

Criteria for meeting Standard 2:

Stream channel morphology and functions are appropriate for proper functioning condition for existing climate, landform, and channel reach characteristics. Riparian-wetland areas are functioning properly when adequate vegetation, land form, or large woody debris is present to dissipate stream energy associated with high water flows. Riparian-wetland functioning condition assessments are based on examination of hydrologic, vegetative, soil and erosion-deposition factors. BLM has developed a standard checklist to address these factors and make functional assessments. Riparian-wetland areas are functioning properly as indicated by the results of the application of the appropriate checklist.

The checklist for riparian areas is in Technical Reference 1737-9 "Process for Assessing Proper Functioning Condition." The checklist for wetlands is in Technical Reference 1737-11 "Process for Assessing Proper Functioning Condition for Lentic Riparian-Wetland Areas."

As indicated by such factors as:

- Gradient
- Width/depth ratio
- Channel roughness and sinuosity of stream channel
- Bank stabilization

- Reduced erosion
- Captured sediment
- Ground-water recharge
- Dissipation of energy by vegetation

Exceptions and exemptions (where applicable): Dirt tanks, wells, and other water facilities constructed or placed at a location for the purpose of providing water for livestock and/or wildlife and which have not been determined through local planning efforts to provide for riparian or wetland habitat are exempt.

Water impoundments permitted for construction, mining, or other similar activities are exempt.

OHV Guidelines:

2-1. Route Design and Location. Routes should be located, or relocated, to avoid/minimally impact sensitive areas such as riparian and wetland areas. Avoid placement of routes longitudinally along riparian-wetland areas. Perpendicular crossings are acceptable as long as the size or frequency of crossings does not significantly affect proper functioning condition or where effect can be mitigated, e.g. with hardening or bridging the crossing to reduce sediment delivery.

2-2. Route Maintenance. Regular maintenance, condition assessment, and monitoring are key to controlling erosion and protecting stream bank stabilization. Erosion problems such as head-cuts should be addressed early on and may require route re-construction or rehabilitation.

2-3. Route Stabilization and Hardening. Use stabilization materials to repair and improve tread integrity.

2-4. Re-vegetation (or Reclamation). Where land use plan decisions dictate closure of non-system (i.e. non-designated) routes, re-vegetate closed routes using natural materials in order to retard erosion and stabilize soils. Employ vertical mulching to the visual horizon, where appropriate.

2-5. OHV Facilities (e.g., staging areas and campgrounds). New facilities should be located away from riparian-wetland areas if they conflict with achieving or maintaining riparian-wetland function. Existing facilities must be used in a way that does not adversely impact riparian-wetland functions or are relocated/modified when incompatible with proper riparian-wetland functions. Ensure that facilities are not located in a flood zone.

C. Standard 3: Desired Resource Conditions

Productive and diverse upland and riparian-wetland plant communities of native species exist and are maintained.

Criteria for meeting Standard 3:

Upland and riparian-wetland plant communities meet desired plant community objectives. Plant community objectives are determined with consideration for all multiple uses. Objectives also address native species, and the requirements of the Taylor Grazing Act, Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and appropriate laws, regulations, and policies.

Desired plant community objectives will be developed to assure that soil conditions and ecosystem function described in Standards 1 and 2 are met. They detail a site-specific plant community, which when obtained, will assure rangeland health, State water quality standards, and habitat for endangered, threatened, and sensitive species. Thus, desired plant community objectives will be used as an indicator of ecosystem function and rangeland health.
As indicated by such factors as:

- Composition
- Structure
- Distribution

Exceptions and exemptions (where applicable): Ecological sites or stream reaches on which a change in existing vegetation is physically, biologically, or economically impractical.

OHV Guidelines:
3-1. As appropriate, manage OHV travel use by type, season, intensity, distribution, and/or duration to minimize the impact on plant and animal habitats, especially those containing threatened, endangered or candidate species. If seasonal closures become appropriate to minimize adverse OHV travel impacts on public lands resources, designate alternative routes to preserve public access where possible. Provide clear and timely information to the public when closures, seasonal use, and other regulations or limits are placed on OHV travel on public lands.

3-2. Protect wildlife and/or habitat by:

- Preserving connectivity and minimizing fragmentation during design or approval of transportation systems.
- Using kiosks, signs, maps, and barriers to delineate approved routes and to educate users about sensitive areas.

- Managing OHV travel activities to minimize interference with critical wildlife stages such as nesting, reproduction, or seasonal concentration areas/ wildlife waters.
- Avoiding creation of artificial attractions such as the intentional and un-intentional feeding of wild animals or improper disposal of garbage.

3-3. Avoid or minimize the establishment and/or spread of noxious or other weeds from intensive recreation, including the use of riding and pack animals, hiking, motorized, or other mechanized vehicles.

Conduct an educational campaign to inform recreational users about the damage caused by noxious weeds and how their spread can be minimized.

Where appropriate, apply restrictions, e.g. don't permit surface disturbing activities.

3-4. Assign higher priority to route monitoring and law enforcement, especially during high-use times such as hunting seasons and holiday periods. Work to coordinate and improve enforcement to deter violations.

3-5. Manage OHV travel activities to conserve watershed and water quality. Manage recreational uses in coordination with other uses on public lands to meet or exceed applicable water quality standards. Control water quality impacts resulting from recreational use, such as erosion, bank degradation, human waste, trash, and other elements. Monitor non-point source pollution particularly in high use areas.

3-6. Manage OHV travel activities to preserve significant cultural, historical, archaeological, traditional, and paleontological resources. Use information and interpretative services as major tools to protect cultural resources. As appropriate, improve public knowledge by locating kiosks, interpretive signs, and visitor information facilities at visitor contact points. Design OHV routes for placement at an adequate distance away from sensitive sites to reduce/eliminate potential damage.

II. OHV Recreation Management Implementation Strategies

A. Coordination, Communications, and Collaboration.

Successful management of OHV recreation relies on pro-active outreach and collaboration with OHV users. Field offices should form local coordinating groups comprised of OHV users and other interested parties to address OHV issues and develop collaborative solutions.

B. Education and Training.

Expand and improve educational efforts to foster responsible-use ethics among OHV users. Use resources from national organizations, such as the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council, Tread Lightly, Inc., and Leave No Trace. The Bureau has signed National Memoranda of Understanding with Leave No Trace (2001) and Tread Lightly! (1998). BLM is committed to abiding by and instructing public land users to likewise abide by these land use ethics principles.

Disseminate information about regulations, penalties, consequences for irresponsible behavior, and impacts to resources from inappropriate use. Utilize high use areas and special events such as OHV dealer expositions to maximize the dissemination of responsible use education materials and concepts to the public and OHV dealers. Set up a booth and greet visitors at entry routes to popular OHV destinations to disseminate educational information and maps/brochures. Incorporate information about public land values and user ethics into the terms and conditions of permits and land use authorizations.

Provide OHV management and land use ethics education and training for managers, staff, partners, and volunteers.

C. Land Use Planning. (See USDI 2005: Appendix C, p. 17-8).

Place a high priority on analysis of OHV travel issues, including user needs, trends, and resource impacts during the land use planning process. Collaborate with the public, including OHV users and other interest groups, when conducting and evaluating route inventories and developing the transportation system and OHV designations, i.e., open, closed, or limited per 43 Code of Federal Regulations 8342. In this regard, the Arizona BLM endorses the use of a systematic route evaluation process that is fully informed by systematic and comprehensive input from the public when preparing transportation plans.

Identify easements and acquisitions where appropriate and necessary to resolve lack of legal access to BLM lands.

Consider designating new OHV use areas, route systems, and camping areas (with adequate support facilities) where appropriate to focus OHV use away from sensitive areas, to disperse heavy OHV use concentrated in too small an area, to provide a diversity of experiences for different types of OHV users, and to meet current and future demands, especially in the urban interface areas. As stated in the National Strategy (USDI 2001: p. 18), where demand exists and land resources can accommodate OHV use, field offices should provide OHV recreation sites to be used for destination-type facilities.

Include in land use plans, social/economic effects of OHV recreational use, including special recreation events (USDI 2001: p.12-13).

Plan and locate OHV travel activities to minimize user conflicts and to segregate motorized from non-motorized recreational uses. For example, OHV travel activities should be located to avoid or minimize contact with non-motorized trail users such as birders, hikers, or equestrians who desire a quiet, natural environment to enjoy their recreational pursuits. Also, establish appropriate speed limits on the designated transportation network to enable safe travel by all users.

D. Partnerships and Volunteers.

Leverage the use of volunteers through challenge cost-share projects. Seek OHV grant funding available through Arizona State Parks such as the Recreation Trails Program.

Develop partnerships with user groups to assist with route maintenance and monitoring through the Adopt-A-Trail program. Enhance opportunities for citizen involvement in OHV management issues by working directly with the public, local communities, user groups, and partnership organizations such as the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council. Consider use of prison crews to complete planned projects.

E. Route Maintenance.

As stated in the National OHV Strategy USDI 2001, route design, maintenance, and restoration techniques need to be improved to enhance resource conditions and visitor experiences on public lands. Document deferred maintenance needs and seek partnerships with other agencies and user groups to address critical issues.

Document deferred maintenance budget requirements and identify resource impacts if not addressed. The Adopt-a-Trail program is one way to get maintenance done by volunteers and it also develops some rider “ownership” in the route. Volunteer workdays are an effective way to get larger projects done.

Partnerships with user groups and environmental organizations can provide volunteers to help reclaim and restore closed routes.

F. Law Enforcement.

Strengthen on-the-ground presence of law enforcement personnel to monitor compliance with OHV regulations and speed limits, particularly during high use periods. Where illegal equipment is suspected, check vehicles for compliance with federal and Arizona state regulations, such as presence of spark arresters and mufflers that comply with sound limits.

G. Monitoring and Adaptive Management

Use volunteers to patrol the designated transportation network to greet visitors and disseminate information in a positive, less threatening environment. Increase on-the-ground presence and encourage the use of volunteer trail patrols. Develop patrol standards and facilitate education of OHV user groups.

Encourage organized OHV groups and responsible users to provide peer pressure to educate non-compliant users and help mitigate adverse resource impacts.

Monitoring forms the basis of "adaptive management". Areas that experience heavy or illegal use will be closely monitored and given priority for law enforcement patrols. If irresponsible use is creating resource damage, then management is adapted to compensate. It is important to intervene and mitigate early before a growing pattern of illegal use is established. OHV travel routes may be restricted, relocated, or even closed to deal with adverse impacts. Use signs to explain closures for mitigation of resource damage. Install additional signs and/or barriers to steer use away from inappropriate areas. Generally, management actions should be taken sequentially in a gradual fashion ranging from minor/temporary to major/permanent restrictions until the problem is resolved or mitigated. There may be instances when proper function has degraded and immediate action is necessary to correct the problem.

Monitoring objectives should include, but not be limited to

- meeting land health standards (e.g. watershed conditions)
- condition assessment (e.g. erosion, washouts, vegetation)
- use (e.g. intensity, type, consistency with planned use)

H. Signs, Maps, and Brochures.

Users are frequently confused about the appropriate use of their vehicles on public lands because of inadequate signs, maps, brochures, and other interpretive products. Field offices should disseminate visitor services information (i.e appropriate vehicle use) through kiosks, signs, maps, brochures, and other publications.

Provide travel information on websites with downloadable mapping capabilities for at-home trip planning.

Cooperate and coordinate with adjacent land managers so that there is seamless travel management transition among land jurisdictions.

I. Congressionally Designated Wilderness Areas.

OHV routes that are located near or adjacent to designated wilderness areas may pose special challenges. Some wilderness areas are accessed by OHV routes that are legally cherry-stemmed and surrounded by wilderness. In some cases, OHV routes lay alongside the boundaries of

wilderness areas. These routes may be part of an approved transportation plan; however, adequate signing of wilderness boundaries is critical to ensure users are aware of the legal limits of motorized travel.

If OHV use is in trespass of a wilderness boundary, early intervention with increased law enforcement, monitoring, and mitigation of resource damage will help prevent a potentially growing pattern of illegal trespass. Where there are dead-end OHV routes that lead only to a wilderness trailhead or campsite (example is the spur route to Brittlebush Trailhead at the boundary of the North Maricopa Mountains Wilderness), it may be appropriate to manage OHV use by type, e.g., exclude use by non-street legal dirt bikes, ATVs, and sand rails.

Collaboration with OHV users and the general public should be done before restrictions are imposed. Notification and education should also be conducted in an effort to reduce and avoid closures.

J. Noxious Weed Abatement.

Avoid or minimize route location in areas vulnerable to invasive species, particularly in riparian areas and washes that show such conditions.

Require vehicle wash protocols for permitted events, where appropriate and practicable.

Require vehicle wash protocols in areas vulnerable to invasive species where appropriate and practicable.

References

USDI, Bureau of Land Management
1997 Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration.
2001 National Management Strategy for Motorized Off-Highway Vehicle Use on Public Lands.
2005 Handbook 1601-1, Land Use Planning Handbook.

APPENDIX D:
PUBLIC MEETING NOTES

Table Mesa Recreation Plan

Public Meeting #1

Deer Valley Community Center, 2001 W. Wahalla Lane, Phoenix

Tuesday November 18, 2008 6:30-8:30 pm

Approximately 140 participants arrived at the meeting and were asked to sign in, pick up a handout and comment form, and asked how they heard about the meeting. The following information was provided:

How did you hear of this meeting?

- A15 Forum on net
- Flyer at Dylan
- Postcard
- Mailing
- Friend
- National Rifle Association
- Arizona Sooting website
- Arizona Game & Fish
- Jeep Club
- BLM Cleanup Day
- Online
- ILA Tour Alert
- email
- Shooters
- Arizona Trail Riders
- Arizona Virtual Jeep Club
- Arizona State Association of 4 Wheel Drive Clubs email
- Flyer at Table Mesa Road
- Property Owner
- AAR
- Postcard
- OHV
- OHVC
- Personal Communication
- Steve

Steve Cohn, Field Manager for BLM, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Steve introduced the project team and began a presentation for the group. He then introduced Tom Bickauskas who provided information from the RMP process. Teresa Makinen then facilitated a serious of questions and discussions from the group as follows:

How do you currently use or recreate in the area?

- Equestrian – 7
- Ranchers – 3
- Hikers – 10
- campers – 30
- Shooters – 60
- Rock Crawlers – 50
- Property Owners – 7
- Mountain Bikers – 8
- Fishing access – 12
- Hunters – 29
- ATV'ers – 14
- Dirt Bikers – 12
- Tourists – 12
- Prospectors – 4

How many times per year do you visit this area?

- 1 time per year – 4
- 2 times per year – 1
- 5 times per year – 13
- 12 times per year – 40
- 2 times per month – 25
- More than 30 times per year – 23

What time of the year do you use this area?

- A majority of the participants stated they use the area year round.
- Seasonally in cool months – 10

Do you support multi-use trails for both motorized and non-motorized uses?

- Five participants said that there could be some sharing of trail where there is the opportunity and where there were limitations due to geography.

Do you think there should be areas where shooting activities are encouraged?

- A majority of the participants stated yes.
- There should be some monitoring of shooting activities.
- There is now target shooting in unsafe areas.
- What are the number of shooting mishaps in the area?

Should there be places where shooting should be discouraged?

- A majority of the participants stated yes.

What kind of facilities would you like to see in this area?

- Restrooms
- Trash Cans
- Parking
- Dirt parking for trailers
- An enforcement location
- Signage
- Water stations for horses
- Day use areas
- Picnic areas
- Motorized areas
- Non-motorized areas
- Different access points
- Equestrian watering stations

What types of things do you not want to see in area?

- Trash

What are your thoughts or ideas on funding for this area?

- Mountain Bike competitions
- Congressional bailout
- Rock Crawling competitions
- Non-motorized competitive sports
- Group sponsored events
- Seasonal birding
- Western shootouts
- User fees

- Fines for littering
- There should be a deposit taken for specific area usage to ensure area clean up. Deposit would not be refunded if area not left clean.
- Adopt-a-Trail
- Adopt-a-Staging area
- Grants
- Non-competitive events – one participant pointed out the RMP said no competitive events.
- OHV Bill grants
- Access to gas tax
- Designated lottery funds

General Comments and Questions:

- Do not take the city to this area.
- Who is going to pay for facilities?
- Clean up of trash in area the most important issue at this time.
- User fees should be "reasonable."
- Safe shooting is a primary goal.
- Need additional access to 4x4 areas.
- Need camp sites near shooting areas.
- Need improved roads for cars.
- Maintain access to Tip Top Mine.
- Need fines for enforcement.
- Encourage volunteerism.
- Existing routes need to be identified in area.
- Existing routes need to stay motorized.
- Need for loop routes.
- Need for more access points.
- Portions of current Black Canyon Trail need to be multi-use.
- Shooting needs to be away from developed areas.
- Need for Doe Peak area trails.
- Maintain northern area for motorized use.
- No facilities – Pack in / Pack out.
- Need for more access to southern area.
- Southern area more conducive to shooting.
- Need an RV / large trailer camping area.
- Need a group camping area.
- Dumpsters should be limited to designated shooting areas.
- The river should be bridged to protect it.
- Shooting should be controlled.
- Access should be maintained to Table Mesa trail head.
- Create a back way to access Lake Pleasant. shooting
- OHV and horse trails should be separate.
- Where are safe shooting zones?

- Single track motorized trail should be in southern area.
- We need to work together to make this work.
- Phoenix is too close to leave area uncontrolled.
- Need for drive up shooting areas.
- Need for loops to road and parking areas.
- One way trails are needed.
- Need for access to Moore Gulch.
- Need for shooting backstops.
- Can excavate disturbed areas to create shooting backstops.
- Need better access to check targets.
- Need inventory of known trails.
- Need to know which trails are to be closed.
- Need for trail usage rotation.
- How long will this plan last when put into effect?
- Do not want to be limited to existing trails.
- Campgrounds on level places away from shooting.
- Some against additional facilities.
- Do not close trails.
- Signage will help all users get along together.
- Need for a gatekeeper and/or limiter.
- Need for mapped connectivity.
- No road / trails closed that are now on map.
- There are responsible people who use this area.
- A shooting campground would be a great funding source.
- Need for concentrated shooting area.
- Need to discourage shooting in OHV areas.
- Has any of the area agencies seen *Coyote* or drug trafficking activities?
- This effort is moving the city to the desert.
- A large percentage of shooters leave trash in area.
- The cart is ahead of the horse: Enforce current laws.
- Online BLM calendar should enable groups to schedule cleanup days so other from outside that group could join their cleanup efforts.
- What are the agencies that have law enforcement jurisdiction in the area?
- How do you know who to call when there is shooting across the Right of Way?
- Need signs with jurisdictional agency emergency contact numbers.
- Need strategy so signs do not get shot up.
- Most important thing in area is safety.

The group then participated in a map exercise to identify where trails, staging and parking areas, etc. should be placed in the Table Mesa Recreation Plan Area. Each group briefed out to the larger group regarding their discussions and decisions and provided the map and notes to BLM. Teresa thanked the participants for their time and turned the meeting over to Steve Cohn for closing comments.

Steve Cohn thanked the participants and explained that this is the first step in the process and we are considering assembling an ongoing stakeholder group to work through this information and with BLM for planning the area. The meeting ended.

Table Mesa Recreation Plan

Public Meeting #2

Anthem Community Center, 41130 N. Freedom Way, Phoenix

Thursday November 20, 2008 6:30-8:00 pm

Approximately 60 participants arrived at the meeting and were asked to sign in, pick up a handout and comment form, and asked how they heard about the meeting. The following information was provided:

How did you hear of this meeting?

- Arizona Virtual Jeep Club
- BLM Flyer
- Friend
- Arizona Classic Jeep Tour
- National Rifle association email
- Mailer
- Internet
- Friends Of Agua Fria National Monument
- email
- zuksofarizona.com
- Black Canyon Trail Coalition
- Postcard
- BLM website
- Arizona Game and Fish website
- Big Bug News

Steve Cohn, Field Manager for BLM, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Steve introduced the project team and began a presentation for the group. He then introduced Tom Bickauskas who provided information from the RMP process. Teresa Makinen then facilitated a serious of questions and discussions from the group as follows:

How do you currently use or recreate in the area?

- Shooters – 22
- Equestrians – 8
- Rock Crawlers – 6
- Mountain Bikers – 2

- Cultural (sacred and traditional) – 1
- Archaeological site stewards – 5
- ATV'ers – 16
- Campers – 7
- Hikers – 3
- Gold panners – 9
- Geo-cachers – 1
- Cattle ranchers – 2
- 4x4'ers – 29
- Jeep tours – 3
- Concessionaires – 1
- Hunters – 15
- Accessing Lake Pleasant – 11

How many times per year do you visit this area?

- 1 time per year – 1
- 12 times per year – 17
- 2 times per month – 9
- More than 50 times per year – 12

What time of the year do you use this area?

- A majority of the participants stated they use the area year round.
- Seasonally in cool months – 9

Do you support multi-use trails for both motorized and non-motorized uses?

- Yes
- Some trails could be joint usage trails because of volume of traffic.
- Horses get spooked.
- Non-motorized uses do not need a trail.
- Need for compatible uses.

Do you think there should be areas where shooting activities are encouraged?

- Yes
- Need for open range shooting during hunting season.

Should there be places where shooting should be discouraged?

- There should be places to both encourage and discourage shooting.

What kind of facilities would you like to see in this area?

- Landing zone (LZ) for Air Posse
- Cell site / tower for emergency services
- Signage for hunters
- Large dirt parking lot for large trailers
- Dumpsters at parking areas that encourage use
- Strict enforcement on trash
- More road maintenance
- Maricopa County Sheriff's Office sub-station
- More law enforcement

What types of things do you not want to see in area?

- Any type of pavement
- Any type of lighting
- Do not want to see any kind of facilities developed – leave it like it is
- Accessibility
- Everything on the list [above]

What are your ideas on funding for this area?

- Trash enforcement fines going back to law enforcement
- Events
- Dumping fines
- Volunteer workers from differing trades offering their service for maintenance and upkeep of area and facilities
- OHV sticker monies
- Voluntary donation box
- Entrance fee
- User fees
- Nominal permit fee “if enforced”
- Do not build facilities
- Stewardship opportunities
- Volunteerism
- ATV usage fee to add to license
- Special shooting stamp fee
- Fines in area stay in area
- Enforce permit requirement

General Comments and Questions:

- Need for warning signs at motorized / non-motorized trail crossings.
- Shooting occurs along side of washes.
- People are riding in washes.
- People cannot tell if wash is part of trail or when trail diverges from wash.
- Need for signage as motorized and non-motorized users get lost easily.
- There are dust issues with motorized users.
- Not everyone uses common sense.
- Lack of common sense is disturbing.
- Need safe areas to shoot.
- Need areas to shoot away from trails.
- Need for signage related to shooting activities.
- More patrolling rangers.
- More patrols by rangers.
- Need for the enforcement of rules / laws.
- As accessibility to area has increased so has trash.
- There should be some type of educational effort in schools as to proper usage of desert areas.
- Off trail users running into shooting areas.
- Dumping = Disrespect.
- More people with more facilities will require more funding.
- Gatekeeper inspector to see that what goes in comes out (i.e. trash such as microwaves).
- If there is an entry station freedom will be given up and regulated.
- Concerns with ownership of Rock Springs.
- Concerns with private land access to public lands.
- Concerns with neighbor complaints about shooters on BLM lands.
- Will a process similar to this Table Mesa recreational Plan be coming to he Bumble Bee area?
- It is common courtesy to pick up your trash.
- Need for parking access.
- The road is very rough to access BLM lands.
- Loop trails should be added.
- Stacked system of trails where some trail would be more difficult than others.
- Need for mountain bike trails.
- Shells from shooters damage the environment.
- People need to pick up spent shot and shells.
- Marked trail crossings.
- Marked trail heads.
- Landing Zone area for shooting.
- At this time shooting area undefined.
- Need for camping areas.
- Need for rock climbing areas.
- The Landing Zone should be close to activity areas.
- Will there be residential development in private property areas?

- Need for motorized points of access.
- Need to separate motorized and non-motorized uses.
- Need for a gold panning area at the Agua Fria river.
- Do not reduce amount of trails.
- Need to open cut off trails.
- Need to open back road to Crown King.
- Table Mesa area trash needs to be cleaned up.
- Area needs to be kept the way it is today only cleaned up.
- Local shooting spots need to be saved.
- There needs to be fines for sign shooting.
- Why is off road motorized game hunting prohibited? Especially, for the disabled?
- Create a Friends of Table Mesa group.
- 20+ people indicated they were interested in forming a stakeholders steering group.

The group then participated in a map exercise to identify where trails, staging and parking areas, etc. should be placed in the Table Mesa Recreation Plan Area. Each group briefed out to the larger group regarding their discussions and decisions and provided the map and notes to BLM. Teresa thanked the participants for their time and turned the meeting over to Steve Cohn for closing comments.

Steve Cohn thanked the participants and explained that this is the first step in the process and we are considering assembling an ongoing stakeholder group to work through this information and with BLM for planning the area. The meeting ended.

Table Mesa Recreation Plan – Core Strategy Team Meeting #1 Page: 1/7
January 20, 2009

Table Mesa Recreational Plan
Core Strategy Team Meeting #1
Deer Valley Community Center, 2001 W. Wahalla Lane, Phoenix
Tuesday January 20, 2009 6:00-8:00 pm

Those in attendance who signed the attendance sheet numbered 25 persons.

Welcome and Opening Comments

The BLM noted that many email notices were returned as undeliverable and asked folks to reenter or verify their email addresses. Some participants voiced concern that they had not received email notification. In addition, for future meeting information, a project website has been created where we will post meeting information at: www.TableMesaRecArea.com

To begin the meeting, Teresa Makinen thanked those in attendance for coming. She noted that we wanted to explain what we heard in the previous public meetings held in November. In addition, she noted that there will be three to four Core Strategy stakeholder meetings refining the Plan; this meeting tonight, a meeting in two weeks on February 3rd, and again in another two weeks on February 17th. She then introduced agency staff in attendance, and introduced Steve Cohn, head of the Hassayampa Field Office, for comments.

Steve Cohn stated that the BLM went back and reviewed the public input from the November meetings, which included comments, maps, inventoried trails and shooting areas. All this information was drafted into a Draft Conceptual Map with Emphasis Areas to be presented and discussed tonight. This draft map would show proposed shooting areas, roads and trails and facilities.

A Review of the Process to Date

Teresa Makinen then reviewed the process to date stating that the BLM held the two meetings in November, and then compiled that information along with the maps and met together as a group to discuss the results of the meetings. All the maps and information from the November meetings were literally posted in the conference room at BLM, and staff discussed and reviewed the public input (maps). In addition, the BLM met with partner or sister agencies to discuss the issues and concerns related to the area and how it may impact their area plans. That conceptual plan is what we have here tonight for your thoughts. Tonight is the next step in this process and we're hoping that all those here tonight will come to the next two stakeholder meetings so that we have a consistent group of individuals, with an evolving discussion as opposed to individuals checking in and out of the discussion. This is a progressive discussion with tonight being a look at the draft conceptual map, and we expect everyone to do their "homework", which will be to take a look at the map and help us understand what you like about the plan and what you think we could do to improve the plan.

Reviewing the Plan Components

Tom Bickauskas then reviewed the draft maps, one of which included "emphasis areas", which were areas that would have specific types of uses. In respect to establishing shooting areas on the draft map, Tom said, the first priority was safety and then mitigation of resource damage, and preventing conflict with any other activity. Teresa asked Tom to explain the "emphasis areas". In the previous meeting people did not know exactly where activities should take place. On the map these Activity Zones were shown as shaded areas. Rock crawling areas in

the north central sections of the planning area, a single track area south of the rock crawling area in the northern area of the planning area, a trails zone in the central section, and with a shooting zone south of the trails zone in the central section. In the southern section are deer and tortoise habitat with no access from State Lands. However, access for the Black Canyon Trail through State lands will be maintained. Facilities, such as an undeveloped Trail Head off Table Mesa Road are scattered throughout planning area as noted. Tom stated that a major component of the plan is to preserve the Agua Fria River, and the desert tortoise habitat.

Comments and questions in regard to the proposed draft safe shooting areas:

- How many acres for each proposed shooting area?
- How many positions for each area?
- There is a need for a nose-to-nose parking lot with space delineations.
- Who is deciding what is safe shooting?
- What are dimensions of pocket ranges?
- Shooting spaces that would accommodate working out of the back of a truck were suggested.
- Will there be a Range Master?

Tom provided a couple shooting range concepts and explained that BLM wants to provide shooting areas where there is the opportunity to partner with other agencies. In planning for this area, habitat and wildlife were major considerations. Shooting is part of our hunting heritage and BLM wants to provide the confidence of safety to those using the area. Tom went on to explain the proposed designated shooting areas. He said that today three of those sites provide safe shooting. Tom stated that he and BLM and Game & Fish staff inventoried the shooting sites and completed a checklist for each site to identify whether the area should be considered a "safe" shooting area. He stated these checklist forms are available for anyone that may wish to see them. A place was designated a shooting area in the planning area if any evidence of shooting (including finding just one shell) had been found upon site survey. As for the location of the proposed safe designated shooting areas, factors that went into their inclusion on the draft map included little use of the area, good access, abatement of the impact of lead on Lake Pleasant, preservation of the Agua Fria River and the preservation of wildlife habitat. Tom also noted the many proposed closed shooting areas indicated with a red dot.

- Who will use shooting areas farther off the main road?
- 4x4 people will not drive all the way to the shooting areas; they will just pull off and shoot where ever.
- We do not want to save the area for 2-wheel users

The question was asked if BLM has funding for this plan. Tom stated that it will take a number of years to build the plan out, and BLM does not know the budget year to year due to the congressional funding process. And BLM continues to look for funding partnerships. Teresa Makinen added that this plan is the first step to doing anything "on the ground". It takes a plan before BLM can seek funding. Arizona Game & Fish stated that lead from shooting activities, by law, must be contained on the shooting properties or it will be classified as an EPA regulated contaminant. Lead is a recyclable on site and a contaminant off-site. The lead will be contained through an engineered detention basin. BLM used standardized methodology to evaluate the lead issue not just random assignment. In the planning for this area, we are trying to serve as many as we can.

- User must have permit to use State Trust Lands.
- What standard was used to evaluate the amount of lead from shooting that is said to be going into Lake Pleasant?
- Lead will go into Lake Pleasant and when it does it will be a health hazard.
- How do we know lead is getting into Lake Pleasant?

- There is a need to see lead issue as scientifically evaluated rather than a result of “Chicken Little” emotion.
- Why is there a proposed safe designated shooting area near future housing development on private lands?
- Housing will be developed on the private lands (Moore's Gulch) to the north of the Power Line Road to be accessed from an easement connecting to Table Mesa Road. I will do everything in my power to prevent shooting areas near the private lands of Moore's Gulch to the north of the Power Line Road. Future development in the private lands (Moore's Gulch) will be high end homes that blend into area on 5+ acre lots.
- Shooting ranges must be ¼ mile from housing.
- A berm could be put up against easement road for safety.

This draft plan has combined shooting areas to show the safe (green on the draft map) shooting areas. Goal is to provide shooters road / vehicle access - drive to target shooting.

- When houses do go up in the private parcels, there will be problems.
- Where is the green dot located on the ground?
- In planning these shooting areas safety and resource damage were mitigating factors.
- Plink where you want.
- Hunting activities will be out there near the future homes.
- Do you think plinking is dangerous to other users?
- Shooting has to be organized.
- This recreational area will attract many.
- The red dots show all shooting areas that are being used now proposed to be consolidated into four safe designated shooting areas.
- Plinking should be allowed.
- Real estate development in a recreational area is all about location, location, location.
- Some do not see a problem with a shooting range near private property and homes.
- Users want shooting but no range master.
- Appropriately 30 shooting sites have been consolidated into 4 shooting sites—Is this enough?
- Alcohol users are less responsible.
- Was a usage census taken to see if a total of 4 shooting locations were enough for all users?
- Will there be room for the growth of shooting activities?
- Ben Avery Shooting Range is always packed and needs more shooting spaces.

Tom stated the draft plan actually increases shooting space. There will need to be parking at the 40-space shooting ranges. A safe shooting range can be created on ten acres. Tom Bickauskas then went on to explain proposed trails, roads and closures in the planning area. Including Table Mesa Road, Azco Mine Road, Die Hard Road, a semi developed crossing of the Agua Fria River, a new Trail Head south of Rock Springs and Terminator. Tom stated that BLM wants to improve the desert tortoise habitat. The Recreational Management Plan starts with a million acres or more and we are now planning for a small section and asking what is the best way for people to do what they like without interfering with natural resources or other activities. In desert tortoise habitat, for every one mile of road created, three miles of road must be closed by regulation.

Comments and questions in regard to the proposed draft trails and roads:

- Why are roads being closed?
- You are closing the exit for rock crawlers.
- The route inventory process was open for 5 years.
- How can we get what we want when you are closing roads at the outset?

Tom stated that BLM wants to preserve the Agua Fria River, which means the driving in the Agua Fria River needs to stop. And, remember, this is a Draft Plan.

- BLM is picking on 4 wheelers for other stuff.
- Do not kill what we already have going.
- This will usher rock crawlers onto private lands.
- This suggested rock crawling trail takes the exit away from the trail.
- Die Hard, a riparian area, will remain open.
- BLM pulling away stuff people do not use.
- "How can we plan for something if trails already closed?"
- Stop bad users.
- Do not penalize rock crawlers.
- If people are coming from Black Canyon City using the Agua Fria River—stop them there.
- Die Hard not as good habitat for desert tortoise.
- Do we have to take a BLM person with us to create our own trail?
- How does BLM create a road or trail?
- Need to find way across river.

Teresa stated that in a future meeting we will need to look at how to sequence the plan area development so that it fits into the user's and BLM's needs. Tom added that the big ticket items for BLM to protect are the desert tortoise habitat mitigation, wildlife areas, and riparian areas.

- Can BLM people come on a field trip to area?
- In reference to rock crawling activities, BLM looking at collateral damage to tortoise and rocks.
- Desert Tortoises are a Special Status Species.
- Where there is an established trail there is no desert tortoise habitat.
- If people do not go off established trails there is no desert tortoise habitat damage.
- Is everything desert tortoise habitat?
- Desert tortoise survey plats exist.
- Can there be seasonal trail in desert tortoise habitat?
- Depending on the weather, there can be desert tortoise active in the winter months.
- Desert tortoises normally hibernate.
- BLM cannot regulate trail usage by temperature.

Tom Bickauskas went on to describe the planning area proposed draft user facilities. Including improvements to Table Mesa Road, information kiosks, developed trail heads, day parking, boundary fencing, camp grounds, staging areas, road to Agua Fria River, restrooms, loop trails and tot lots.

Comments and questions in regard to the proposed draft facilities:

- The pink area is for single track users—it has less desert tortoise habitat.
- Loop trails around Doe Peak were looked at—this is hunting and wildlife habitat.
- Black Canyon Trail is non-motorized.
- We need more of a legal definition of Desert Tortoise Habitat.
- Can we have a presentation from an English [common language] speaking scientist?
- Rock crawlers are urged to do their homework for the next stakeholder meeting to provide alternative rock crawling routes in the planning area.
- A formal definition of desert tortoise habitat and applicable laws need to be posted on project website.
- How far do cattle come down?

Tom stated that BLM is dealing with the cattle separately from this process.

- Designated trails for designated use.
- Where money for facilities is coming from leads to the vision process.
- More campgrounds and picnic areas are needed along river.
- A need to recognize participation of sister agencies with input.
- We need accurate maps to find alternatives.
- We cannot work around sensitive areas without accurate knowledge of area.
- Desert tortoise habitat is everywhere.
- We cannot come prepared without accurate maps of the area.

Next Steps for the Process

Teresa closed by letting the group know that this is just a starting place and asked the group to trust that we are going to continue the discussion. She reminded the participants of the upcoming stakeholder meetings in two and four weeks. There were additional complaints about the meeting email notification, and Teresa reminded the group of the project website and asked that they look at that site, and in fact, feel free to link their individual organizations to our website. Teresa suggested keeping up with the project website for future meeting information. She asked the participants to do their homework and bring back better or improved concepts for the plan. She asked the group to tell us what would be better than the draft plan and how we can do it.

Closing Comments

Steve Cohn asked the group to stay engaged. He noted that no one is going to get everything they want but will get enough of the things they like and value to see the situation improve for all. Steve also asked that the participants go out and get information to present ideas at the next meetings. Also, the BLM is open to going along on field trips to the area. For the next meeting Steve will try to arrange a presentation from BLM biologists on Desert Tortoise Habitat.

Teresa thanked the group and the meeting ended.

Table Mesa Recreational Plan

Core Strategy Team Meeting #2

Deer Valley Community Center, 2001 W. Wahalla Lane, Phoenix

Tuesday, February 3, 2009 6:00-8:30 pm

Those in attendance who signed the attendance sheet numbered 73 persons.

Welcome and Opening Comments

Teresa Makinen opened the meeting by welcoming the participants, reviewing the evening's agenda, and introducing the project team. She then introduced Steve Cohn to provide some opening comments to the group.

Review of the Process to Date

Steve Cohn provided the framework and background for developing the Table Mesa Recreation Plan. The Table Mesa area is a small portion of the public lands managed by the BLM Hassayampa Field Office. This Field Office published a proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP) in August 2008 that will be finalized in 2009. The RMP is a complete plan to manage all the public lands and through six years of public input, certain decisions were already established in the RMP that affect the Table Mesa lands.

Mr. Cohn discussed that the public has already determined, through the RMP, that target shooting in the area will remain open where it can be safely accommodated. Other area priorities include: non-motorized use, historical use and natural resources. This includes the protection and restoration of riparian areas. BLM is looking for a compatibility of uses and users in the area.

Therefore, the RMP sets the stage and framework for the Table Mesa Recreation Plan that will designate roads and trails, identify safe shooting areas, recreation facilities, and partnerships. In the planning process, BLM wants to work with the public to shape the area.

Steve said that the area is popular and safety issues need to be addressed now. The Table Mesa Recreation Plan area encompasses 11,000 acres, part of 1 million acres that need to be planned for in the future. The proposed goal for finalizing the Recreational Plan is by the end of March 2009. (Several more steps will follow.) Steve stated he would like to identify issues and concerns now so that the agency can move on to doing things "on the ground" for the area.

Steve stressed to the group that everything is on the table now. To address area needs Steve said it will take many partnerships and cooperation from the public to get this plan done with the ultimate goal of improving the user experience in the area.

For reference, Teresa Makinen noted to the group that the Resource Management Plan Decisions could be found on the back of the meeting handout. She added that the main areas that the BLM needs to consider in planning for the area, many of which were decided in the Resource Management Plan, are as follows:

- *Riparian areas, including the Agua Fria River and area washes.*
- *Desert Tortoise habitat areas.*
- *Accommodating multiple users in a compatible way.*
- *County and State policies.*
- *Maricopa County Air Quality laws, PM-10 area.*
- *Law enforcement concerns.*

Desert Tortoise Habitat Management

In November 2008, the Field Office sponsored two public meetings to gather input for the Table Mesa Recreational Plan. From comments received at the two public meetings, as well as those posted on line, the staff created a first draft of planned area uses and facilities. To ensure that the public remains engaged and that the agency considers as many issues and alternatives allowed in the RMP, the BLM asked key groups to assign/appoint representatives and to come back to at least three meetings – called Core Strategy Group Meetings. These meetings were/are publically announced for: Jan 20th, Feb. 3rd; Feb. 17th 2009…and opened to the public at large, even though key organizations agreed to send the same representatives to each meeting for consistency and to move the conversations and process along. Teresa stated that at the last Core Strategy Meeting, many individuals had questions about the tortoise habitat management. The BLM agreed to have a biologist at the next meeting – tonight's meeting. She then introduced Tim Hughes, Biologist with BLM.

Next, Tim Hughes, a wildlife biologist with BLM, presented information on the Desert Tortoise Habitat. He stated that the Desert Tortoise has been at risk for being listed on under the Endangered Species Act; and although it was not originally listed, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is once again reviewing whether to add it to the list. In order to avoid this and in cooperation with many other federal, state and local agencies, BLM is working to actively manage Desert Tortoise Habitat. Mr. Hughes explained that if the tortoise is added to the list, there will be restrictions to the use of the land that will greatly affect the current uses. This is why the agency is actively managing the lands to avoid listing and additional restrictions. He explained that once the BLM receives an application for an activity (any activity: trails, OHV permits, mining, rights of way, etc.) that at that time a survey/review is initiated to determine whether tortoise are currently using the lands, whether the tortoise travel through the land for mating or food, whether the lands offer prime tortoise habitat, a count of tortoise seen, and other factors mandated for the active management of the tortoise aimed at preventing it from being added to the Endangered list. In the case of Table Mesa OHV use, whenever new trails are proposed, those are surveyed for Desert Tortoise activity to assess where the trail is feasible, or whether there is some mitigation that needs to take place. He went on to explain likely desert tortoise habitat characteristics.

Tim noted that previous survey efforts do not negate the need for new site specific surveys. If a project's impact upon Desert Tortoise habitat can be mitigated or eliminated a project will be approved. When considering a proposed project, the following process is used:

- *Look at the project proposal.*
- *Walk the project area looking for Desert Tortoise sign.*
- *If found, look at ways to mitigate impacts.*
- *Evaluate the requested land use with the Resource Management Plan*

Comments and questions in regard to Desert Tortoise Habitat Management:

- When was the last Desert Tortoise inventory of the Table Mesa area?
- How many burrows in study area?
- Have any Desert Tortoises been found?
- What about the eagles nesting on the lake?
- Desert Tortoise upper respiratory problems are not part of nature.

Tim replied that domestic and exotic tortoises were most likely purchased by folks as pets and then released to the wild. They became carriers and created problems for the desert tortoise. Desert Tortoise upper respiratory problems look like nasal discharge and enlarged glands.

- *Users to the area can't cause this.*

Tim stated that is not so, users add "stress" to the Desert Tortoise populations making them susceptible to the upper respiratory infection. The biggest concern to Desert Tortoise is habitat fragmentation by roads and pipelines.

- *A Desert Tortoise uses approximately 200 acres.*
- *When can area be inventoried for Desert Tortoise?*
- *With many existing roads, the impact to the Desert Tortoise has likely already been manifested.*
- *OHV users say that they have seen only one Desert Tortoise in 11 years.*

Tim stated that the tortoise comes out of burrows very early/late. Most people do not see them and many more do not know what to look for. He said that areas with recent usage or disturbance can be restored for the Desert Tortoise. BLM will make its best effort to mitigate Desert Tortoise impacts. Signs of the Desert Tortoise include; scat, egg shells, and burrows and boulders.

Tim stated that the last Desert Tortoise inventory done in the Table Mesa Area was, specifically, where rock crawling organizations made a request to the BLM and in order to evaluate the request, the specific area was surveyed. In 2005, Desert Tortoise were found in the area.

Questions:

- We are now here to figure out how to plan to get around Desert Tortoise areas.
- Is there a way to locate every Desert Tortoise and plan around?

Tim stated that the BLM Desert Tortoise process needs to find out where the project will be and then we do a site specific study. He stated that Desert Tortoise and riparian closures are not arbitrary decisions.

- *Mr. Hughes noted that much of southwestern Arizona is a desert tortoise habitat…the issue is whether they are at specific areas, when, what affects them, etc. Therefore, it is difficult to map these areas, as the tortoise does move and must move to accommodate its lifeline and breeding.*

Comments:

- If we do not know where Desert Tortoise areas are, how can we plan?
- Show us the last Desert Tortoise inventory.

Steve Cohn interjected that again, all concepts on are on the table for right now and what the agency has been asking is for individuals and groups to bring these specific ideas and locations (maps) to the table and make the most compelling case for the land use and compatibility. "We're now asking, "what other proposals are there?".

Several participants indicated that it is difficult to find trails and area when they don't have the data to do our homework. It seems like everywhere in the planning area is Desert Tortoise Habitat. They asked if the entire area has been surveyed and if so, why the map can't be made available for this process.

Tim stated that the entire area has not been mapped, as he stated, he conducts site specific surveys when a group or company applies for a land use permit or right of way or when the agency develops trails and roads.

Public Comments:

- When will this process be done?
- This process cannot be done by March.
- Inventory of Desert Tortoise habitat has very little overlap with existing roads.
- We have been looking at how to connect existing roads.
- We need a trail that parallels the Agua Fria River then cuts across.
- We all want to see Desert Tortoise habitat areas highlighted on the map.

Tom Bickauskas stated that it could take about one month to inventory new proposed trails, and Tim Hughes added that it takes a few days to inventory those trails for Desert Tortoise. However, Tim added that he doesn't have the resources to inventory every inch of the planning area. He again clarified that the process for BLM is for someone to propose a route, and then he goes out to inventory Desert Tortoise and makes a recommendation regarding the proposed trail.

Public Comments:

- We cannot find a new route because of Desert Tortoise and other issues that need to be worked around.
- Our homework was to propose new crawling trails. But, we cannot because we do not know where Desert Tortoise habitat is.
- A volunteer Desert Tortoise survey would be too labor intensive.
- A Desert Tortoise survey volunteer would need to be trained first.

Tim Hughes stated that Desert Tortoise areas need to be connected.

The audience asked questions about a recent pipeline installation in the area. The pipeline firm had to survey for tortoises by contracted biologists. The pipeline project could not be mitigated. The pipeline project paid approximately $250,000 for Desert Tortoise habitat compensation which is being used to restore or conserve desert tortoise habitat.

Public Comments:

- What should I do if I see a Desert Tortoise on the road?

Tim replied that you can carefully move the Desert Tortoise off the road, but keep the Desert Tortoise level while moving.

- I fear closure decisions are being based upon inaccurate, incomplete and fuzzy science.
- Once a road is closed we cannot go back.

- How can you say roads fragment Desert Tortoise habitat when you do not have the science to back it?
- We want scientific facts to back the closing of a road.
- I do not want someone in an office to make road closure decisions.
- We are concerned that the project team is going over past studies that took years to complete.
- Routes BLM is now proposing to close and open decided without decision making matrix.

Tom Bickauskas stated that Appendix D of the Resource Management Plan addresses this issue. In many cases, the routes or roads were never open or designated roads; some can appear very quickly as riders create them. His goal is to connect roads for an longer, enjoyable ride while protecting the resources, as mandated.

Public Comments:

- Your guy mapped and walked the area, is there a map of where Desert Tortoise sign is found in the area?
- Is a map of where Desert Tortoise sign is found in the area available to us?
- Previous Desert Tortoise survey maps were before GIS and are located on paper topos.
- Other than a few sites in the past months BLM has made no Desert Tortoise survey efforts.
- Desert Tortoise is a long lived animal so the Desert Tortoise inventoried in past should still be there.

Steve Cohn stated that the Desert Tortoise habitat inventory will be included in the Environmental Assessment (EA). BLM looks for Desert Tortoise sign in response to projects. The BLM wildlife biologist needs alternate routes to do target surveys. In other words – bring all of your concept an maps to the table, we'll map them, we'll review them, we'll create a plan and at that time, the plan goes into an environmental assessment (EA) – this is when the biologists goes out and make the recommendations.

Reviewing the Plan Components

Teresa Makinen asked Tom Bickauskas to once again review the plan components. Tom pointed out areas of change, open and closed roads, riparian areas, new trail connections, identified safe shooting areas and other areas that, with mitigation, could be made safe. Tom noted there may be several of the land use management issues behind a suggested closure – river banks, riparian areas, the Desert Tortoise mitigation and others for safe shooting. For safe shooting, six larger sites are proposed (as opposed to dozens of smaller ones scattered in riverbeds) that will accommodate up to 40 shooters for both long and short range targeting. A southern shooting area was included for shooting experience that includes 4x4 trails. In the northern area of the area, development is concentrated around the roads system. Target shooters told use they want to drive to the sites and prefer them accessible. There were five (5) larger shooting areas surveyed by the Az. Game & Fish folks and this increased this week to six (6). The small red dots are the site in river or riparian banks / tortoise areas, or where hikers pass by that are proposed closed. Anything in red denotes a proposed closed by road access. However, as long as the shooter walks at least 200 feet out of any roads, shooting would be allowed at other locations where they are 200ft from an open route <u>and</u> meet the requirements for safe shooting listed in the RMP.

Tom also went over the addition of proposed facilities including entry kiosks, improved Black Canyon Trailhead, improved campsites, improved staging areas with a Tot Lot.

Comments and questions in regard to the Proposed Plan Components:

- Who would I call to develop a shooting site partnership?
- What is the number of shooting injuries in the area?
- Why the concern about shooting?

- In many places the existing trails can be sited from the existing shooting areas.
- Why are you closing shooting areas out of safety concerns when there are no safety issues?
- My boat is shot up.
- There have been many reports of near misses.
- The need for safe shooting is real and with this effort BLM is trying to get out ahead of the issue.
- You cannot get ahead of "stupid people."
- Is the kiosk informational only?
- Including a bunny hill for the kids is a great idea.
- Who would I donate paper target to for the shooting areas?
- How do I find out why a proposed closure is happening?
- I question spending on informational kiosks without law enforcement.
- Who will cover liability for the bunny hill?

Tom Bickauskas stated that there is a route inventory available; however, it would be easier if you would say which route you are interested in.

- We need each line explained on map.
- We are putting these lines on the map to see if you agree or not.
- The Agua Fria River is a sandy wash most of the year. Cannot a portion of this sandy area be designated for sand running part of the year?

Tim Hughes stated that sand running in the Agua Fria River is a riparian issue involving plant community health and the stabilization of banks that help slow the flow of the river when it does flow. There is probably some area we can look at for sand running. A riparian area is dynamic – it's always changing.

Steve Cohn stated that it's the kind of people in this room that are the ones to help patrol the area with issues such as dust, law enforcement and trail blazing. We want to work with the community for ongoing issues in the area. This is your public land – we all have the responsibility.

Public Comments:

- Is there a proposal in place to look for additional Lake Pleasant access?
- A public access to the park boundary is needed.

Steve Cohn stated that BLM is working with the Maricopa County Parks who have that jurisdiction. In fact, there is a public meeting tomorrow night for the Agua Fria Conservation Area, which is what that area is called for the lake access off Table Mesa Road.

Public Comments:

- The land is completely open now and you are going to close it without any applicable reasons to justify.
- BLM has not justified the timeline for the Table Mesa recreational Plan nor the *"there might be Desert Tortoise there"* justification.
- We are losing too many shooting opportunities.
- If someone is shooting unsafely, you can bring law enforcement out.
- You cannot close public land because of unsafe shooters.
- Will there be a penalty if I shoot in the wrong place?
- The Table Mesa Recreation Plan is not a 7 week process.

Steve Cohn stated that after the proposed plan is finalized and accepted by the BLM, there will be the need for an environmental assessment (EA). Typically, an agency holds only one public meeting. In this case – there were two public meetings (November) followed by these Core Strategy Sessions. We wanted to open the process up to include as much public comment as possible. With these meetings, BLM gets a sense of what the public wants and the public gets a sense of what BLM does.

- Why not move the Table Mesa Recreation Plan March 31, 2009 plan deadline to August 31, 2009?

Steve Cohn stated that the Resource Management Plan covers 1 million acres while the Table Mesa Recreational Plan area includes 11,000 acres of the 1 million. If we spend 2-3 years on the Table Mesa Recreation Plan, we cannot get to the rest of the one million acres to plan.

Public Comments:

- Put law enforcement where shooting is happening next to people riding.
- Idiots shoot without a backstop.
- BLM is trying to close land because of a lack of law enforcement.

Steve Cohn stated that to actually "implement" is the wrong word for the March 31st deadline because the Table Mesa Recreation Plan must be followed by an environmental assessment (EA). The EA process will take place approximately 2-3 months after this planning process. After the March 31st date, there will be BLM internal work to be completed. Then there is another period for public comments. BLM is trying to get as many of these comments up front as possible, and then if people don't like what they see with the EA, they can appeal the EA. The Table Mesa Recreation Plan process is an informal process.

Public Comments:

- Is any work in the area now being done by anyone, because I see work in the area.

Steve Cohn stated that APS is doing powerline maintenance, which they are required to do under FERC guidelines.

- Why is there a campground so close to a riparian area?

Steve stated that camping is allowed 100 feet off of roads and in some cases, the area has already been impacted by past mining activities.

- There is a basic multi-user problem: We cannot find out who has law enforcement jurisdiction in area.
- When law enforcement does have jurisdiction why are they not enforcing in the area? Who are we supposed to call?

Steve Cohn stated that if someone shoots at you, call 911. If you're assaulted, call 911. Emergencies – call 911. If you see illegal activities that relate to federal lands and resources (littering, harming the lands), you can get a picture of the license plate to the BLM.

The proposed closed trails each has a story as to why it needs to be closed.

- Why can't 4x4 people use the existing roads?

Steve Cohn stated that there is a risk of route proliferation, but we want the route system to accommodate what people want to do. You can camp 100 feet off the road.

- ATV'ers follow the road to see where it goes.
- The public does not use roads to get from *A* to *B* only.

- BLM has gone overboard on road closures.
- Who enforces dust control in *Area A* on high dust days?

Steve Cohn stated that access across private land can't be shown on the map, but private land could be purchased. At this time, BLM is working with one private property owner trying to get deeded access if other options cannot be found. But, BLM can't encourage people to trespass.

He went on to say that BLM has the authority to run through a thorough analysis of safe places to shoot. We are looking for funding partners. We don't plan to close roads/river-areas to shooting until we have the ability to develop the safe shooting areas, and we are looking for additional safe shooting areas. A proposed shooting area will have minimal development, berms, benches and target gongs. Currently, much of the shooting is taking place in washes above Phoenix's main water supply. With storm events there is the chance to wash lead into that supply. To identify safe, sustainable shooting areas BLM looked at sites with natural backstops.

Public Comments:

- Any road in the area for more than 5 years should be kept.
- I do not like benches at shooting sites.
- Use PVC pipe to delineate lanes.
- There needs to be some way to enforce trash pickup.
- Someone should patrol the area at night.
- Much of the illegal activities are happening at night.

Participant Proposals on Alternatives

Teresa then asked the participants for any proposals they may have on alternatives for the area. Several individuals came to the front of the group to explain their proposed alternative and annotated it on the map.

Closing Comments

Teresa invited all to the same place at the same time in 2 weeks (Feb. 17th: same time/ same place) for the next meeting to continue to provide more maps and concepts and specific locations for uses and to continue this discussion on the Table Mesa Recreational Plan. Teresa asked that the same people attend the next meeting.

Steve Cohn thanked all for their time and for sharing their ideas. He stated that the Table Mesa Recreation Area could be a world class recreational area - this area is special.

Table Mesa Recreational Plan

Core Strategy Team Meeting #3

Deer Valley Community Center, 2001 W. Wahalla Lane, Phoenix

Tuesday, February 17, 2009 6:00-8:30 pm

Those in attendance who signed the attendance sheet numbered 47 persons.

Welcome and Opening Comments

Current Concept Map with Participant Proposals

Facilitator Teresa Makinen opened the meeting by welcoming the participants, reviewing the evening's agenda, and introducing the project team. She then presented the current concept map with participant proposals to date.

Additional Participant Proposals on Alternatives

Teresa asked if there were any additional proposals that any of the participants would like to provide. The following information was provided:

- The rock crawling trail "Annihilator" should be considered for opening up for access to a spring area for daytime use only.
- The single track emphasis area has too many road closures.
- In single track area some of the dead end trails could be connected. If trails connect more people will stay on trails.

Several participants stated this was the first meeting for them, and they would like a brief synopsis of what has occurred to date. Teresa asked all the participants if we could take a moment to provide an update, to which they agreed, and Teresa provided this information on the process to date:

- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Hassayampa Field Office will release this summer its master land use plans for the entire field office. Certain decisions have been achieved through the public process within this master plan that do set decisions for the specific smaller area of Table Mesa. The master land use plans are the big (parent) document, and from this, the BLM creates a specific Recreation Plan and Travel Management (routes) for Table Mesa.
- Nothing is final at this point.

- Working from the master plans, most recent travel or route designations, having discussions and field tours with shooting organizations, Az. Game & Fish and OHV users, from among others, the BLM staff created a conceptual map. The map was shown at each meeting. There are areas where shooting is current taking place that do not meet standards or laws and some of these are proposed closed (red dots – even if just one shell was located there). The map also shows larger green dots that are proposed areas for open and further developed shooting slots for up to 40 slots, long and short ranges. Steve stated the goal of this process is to encourage safe shooting in safe shooting areas. We understand that shooters want to be next to roads.
- The idea for routes and trails is to develop loops for traveling in and out rather than turning around and go back the same way; to keep trails out of the riverbed and washes; to create staging or camping areas for trailers or campers; to close routes or trails that do not lead anywhere or that harm the environment. The lines in the color red are proposed closed; the lines in the thicker green are new roads being proposed.
- Orange dots represent facilities proposed; camping, restrooms, etc.
- It was asked if any lands were available for land swaps? Steve replied that the RMP that was finalized last summer states that the whole area is designated for retention. The RMP up for revision in 15 years. This could change if there were an Act of Congress directing a land exchange.
- It was asked if there would be any fees for use in this area? Steve stated that the idea of fees has been brought up a few times by participants.
- Is there any liability for BLM in developing designated shooting areas?

Steve Cohn replied that BLM is still looking at whether developed shooting areas are feasible. There are some example areas around the country but this is still a gray area of policy. He went on to state that we hear the area has safety issues, so we can do nothing or we can be proactive. There is also a high liability knowing about the problems and not being proactive enough. The public had these comments:

- Resource concerns cause closures.
- There is a need to monitor the area and put out informational signs.
- The route designation process is happening nationwide in BLM.
- Will the next focus area be divulged before this same process takes place for other areas? Steve stated that at this time no decision has been made as to the next area of planning for BLM.
- We'd like to know what the next area is so we can be more prepared and go out and look at the area in advance.
- We heard you say something about the next area possibly being Wickenburg at a previous meeting. Steve stated that BLM will try to let the group know what area is next for the planning process.
- How many areas in the section are designated for travel trailers? Tom replied that there is a flat staging area served by an improved road to the river, with an additional staging area and existing campsites.
- When are we going to find out if the roads we proposed to keep open will be kept open?
- I'm concerned about a concentration of shooters in the designated safe shooting areas – that may be more unsafe.

Teresa asked for any other proposals. One participant, Greg, gave a powerpoint presentation on areas and trails/roads he proposed to keep open. Greg's information included the following:

- Concern over the compatibility between the map BLM is using for this planning exercise and *Garmin* maps. He stated that the BLM maps are hard to coordinate with GPS.
- No use for southern area due to the many trail closures.
- Many historic and well worn trails are in the area.
- Pipeline road great access.
- Short trail overlooking Gillette should be kept open.

Teresa thanked Greg for a well thought out presentation. Other participant's comments include:

- What about access across private property? There are currently no existing signs in area concerning private property. What will these signs look like? Steve replied that BLM is working with private property owners to acquire access easements in some instances. BLM will assist private property owners with the posting of signs. BLM has to look at roads that go to and from private property.
- Additionally, law enforcement has a hard time due to lack of warning signage.
- Property owners have a *right-of-way.* This does not legally permit multiple access roads to property.
- Existing situation roads cross private and State lands.
- Leave it like it is and let the owners post signs.
- Is this area open to hunting?
- What about vehicle access to recover game? Tom stated that the RMP does not permit motorized game retrieval at this time. There are programs however for the disabled.
- AZGFD looking at this issue.
- A statement was made that BLM should consider the authorization of big game retrieval by OHV. Tom stated that the RMP does not allow this activity so the decision is already made.
- It was said that there was a bill going through the legislature to change this situation.
- Much like the closures for the *Bald Eagle Area*, could trails be seasonally opened for hunting?
- As far as lead contamination: I read a requirement that best science available must be used to show lead migration to Lake Pleasant.
- I checked with a City of Phoenix chemist and the lake water is running less than 5 ppb lead when the EPA Action Level for lead contamination is 15 ppb. Lead has been washing into Lake Pleasant for 10 years. Therefore, no action is required in response to lead contamination.
- How much lead is there in the water?
- Are there differences in lead concentration between the northern and southern areas?
- Is lead contamination a hazard to people?
- No one has told us about the science saying that lead is migrating to the lake. Steve stated that AZGFD has said that if the area is to be developed there must be no issue with lead. Designated shooting areas concentrate lead.
- As far as shooting in washes, BLM is keeping silent.
- The lead issue is irrelevant.
- There are gold mines in area.
- Are there lead mines in area?
- Is the lead problem coming from shooters or lead mines?

Teresa asked for any additional proposals for the area:

- Just to the west of a designated shooting area there is a great shooting area in a wash.
- There needs to be a designated shooting area for long guns and clay pigeon shooting.
- Fence in ranch / mine / well with chain link.
- Proposed route around Doe Peak. The area is popular with deer hunters.
- Need jeep access to area.
- A connection to BLM trails needs to be made in area.
- I have been out to the area several times and I cannot figure out where I am.
- I fear concentrating shooters will reduce safety.
- A safe shooter can safely shoot in a questionable area.
- What is the process to get a closed road re-opened? Steve replied a proposal is sent to BLM and BLM evaluates the proposal. However, once the road closure decision is made for this area, it will probably not open for some time to come. This is an effort to establish area now. Adjustments can be made as process goes along. This is the process where we decide red/green – open/closed. None of these roads were created for recreational purposes for over 100 years. BLM wants to manage area for recreation. BLM wants to look at area in regard to opening other trail/roads. Now is the time to bring any routes forward.

Thoughts on How to Manage the Area

Teresa reviewed the Four E's of Recreation Management. (Engineering, Education, Enforcement, and Evaluation (Monitoring)). The following comments were provided by participants:

- Need to add Science to the Engineering section.
- Formal monitoring – What is that?
- What has been done now in regard to monitoring of area? Teresa replied that the area is currently unplanned, so there is no monitoring. The idea is to get a plan in place and then conduct monitoring. The *Four E's* apply to a planned area. Steve added that the area is now seen as having limited uses with a plan to switch to designated uses.
- BLM must use good science to close a road.
- No road closure designations are done as of now.
- Closures are for a planning concept only.
- BLM can leave roads open and wait for someone to ask that they be closed.

Next Steps for the Process

Teresa then reviewed the Table Mesa Recreation Plan process timeline. All participants received a copy of this timeline on the back of the evening's agenda.

- A normal *EA* process is not as open as this process.
- Need a bigger meeting space for the June 30th meeting.
- Why was this area chosen to be studied and who chose it? Steve Cohn replied that he chose the Table Mesa Area to be studied due to the intensity of use and interest in area. BLM is now requiring that all

trails have to be designated. BLM has 1 million acres to plan. At the end of March BLM will run the area through a *EA* exercise. With the goal of a *FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact)*. Without a *FONSI,* the process might need to move into an *EIS.*

- Many constraints dictate whether open or closed.
- If you come back will you explain the closures?

Steve Cohn added that the BLM's goal is to end up with a plan that generates no appeals—a plan that is at least as good or better than when started. Recreational shooting will be accommodated by BLM as possible. BLM is working to keep public lands in the public hands.

- A participant representing Public Lands provided a statement to the group and in written form for BLM, regarding shooting. The statement included that Public Lands is impressed with BLM trying to combine differing activities safely together.
- He also asked how can he propose safe shooting areas if he does not know where he is at?
- BLM made an offer to accept GPS coordinates.
- It was noted that BLM was light years behind on technology issues.

After some discussion about maps and the ability to compare BLM maps, the project team stated they will attempt to provide additional data on the map, perhaps lat/long or section numbers.

- BLM needs to look at connectivity to other areas as the Table Mesa area is not self contained.
- There is a need to look beyond this area to the Boulders area to Table Mesa to Crown King.

Teresa Makinen stated that BLM is having meetings with sister agencies regarding their planning, so the intent is for that information to work through in the discussions.

- There needs to be spurs off the Black Canyon Trail for multi-user motorized use.
- A comment was made that the process BLM is using is the exact same process seen used before except the Hassayampa Field Office of the BLM is being a lot more open with this process.
- BLM is following this process nationwide.
- There is a need to get the proposals on the map or forget about re-opening.
- What is the criteria for trail closure?
- There is a need for due diligence in closures.

Steve stated that if suggested options are declined, an explanation will be provided. However, as users, we need to think of the area in terms of a "Recreation System". The public asked/commented:

- Where are the new roads?
- There will be residential developed in this area on the private property parcels on the east and west.
- I propose we move all the shooting away from Table Mesa Road.
- There is a strong incentive to get this plan right to prevent a shooting moratorium.
- Reality is that there will be residential in this area.
- I found out about this meeting by accident.

- Are there any signs in the area saying that the area is under study?
- Information about the Table Mesa area is hard to find on the BLM website.
- Builders should put up money for a signage budget.

Teresa stated that the Table Mesa Recreational Plan process has received more press, radio, internet, and blog communications than many public processes. In addition, about 500-600 people have been involved in all the meetings that have been held. However, we'll see if we can get a sign out in the planning area.

- What is the budget for the project? Teresa replied that we are in the planning phase, and without a plan there can be no budget. Steve added that the plan is like a menu that you can order off. Some activities will go to BLM for funding others will look to partnering for funding.

Participant Proposal for Organizing the Area

Teresa stated that Ben has asked for time to provide a presentation on organizing the area.

Ben gave a presentation on forming a volunteer enforcement assistance group. He asked for those interested in forming a group to help organize the area submitted their names to Ben on a sign-in sheet at the end of the meeting. He added that paramedic skills of volunteers would be helpful. The following comments were provided by participants:

- There is no cell service in area.
- Cell service can be established on some ridge tops.
- This can be as simple as driving around helping out and keeping eyes open.
- This has to be a cooperative agreement with the powers that be.
- CB radios, FRS could be used to communicate.
- How can this group be implemented?
- This group will not prevent but monitor area.
- Could this be tagged on to the OHV Ambassador effort?
- Could BLM put a cell tower out there? Steve noted that BLM could provide some equipment and resources to this group.
- Will this area be part of Phoenix residential area?
- There is a need for law enforcement and consequences in area.
- BLM working on coordinating with other agencies.
- Another component is citizen participation.
- I called the BLM card number and got a fuzzy response.
- The pipeline construction is creating more dust than trail usage.
- What law enforcement entities are in area?

Closing Comments

Steve thanked all for their time and attendance. He went on to say that BLM learns the most from meeting like this one. Steve apologized due to the fact that is planning process can not address just a single issue. Further, that he did not want to prevent anyone from further interaction with BLM. Steve stated that Ben's idea was critical. That if Ben could pull this group together that they would have considerable influence on area discussions. It is still earlier enough in the process that such a group representing many interests could be used as a sounding board.

APPENDIX E: ROUTE DESIGNATIONS TABLE & MAPS

Definition of final management decision:

Open Open to all transportation modes year round, including all motorized and non-motorized uses.

Mitigate Open Same as Open with the caveat that special consideration or action is needed to protect sensitive resources.

Limit Access to the route is limited to a particular mode of transportation mode, time of use or entity.

Mitigate Limit Same as Limit with the additional caveat special consideration or action is needed to protect sensitive resources.

Close Close the route to all uses. Routes allowed to reclaim naturally would be available for cross-country hiking and horse use.

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
11	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to protect cultural site, desert tortoise habitat and desert wash habitat. Route is in a high density route area and route proliferation is occurring. Closing this route would minimize effects to these resources by allowing vegetation regrowth and improving tortoise habitat area.	***
11A	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to allow access to private property and recreation. Mitigation required to minimize effects to desert tortoise habitat if maintenance done.	9982B

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
11AA	Mitigate/Limit	Trail	1	None	Open to non-motorized uses to allow connection with Black Canyon Trail and limited use of Agua Fria River area. Changing the use from motorized use to non-motorized use minimizes effects to riparian resources. Mitigation required would include monitoring and treating for noxious weeds in riparian area.	9956
11B	Closed	None	0	None	Closed because route crosses private property, is in desert tortoise habitat, in a high density route area and route proliferation is occurring. Closing this route would mimize effects to private property owners and natural resources.	***
11C	Closed	None	0	None	Closed because route crosses private property, is in desert tortoise habitat, in a high density route area and route proliferation is occurring. Closing this route would mimize effects to private property owners and natural resources.	***
11D	Closed	None	0	None	Closed due to high density route area where route proliferation is occuring. Closing this route minimizes effects to desert tortoise habitat and soil/vegetation resources by allowing vegetation regrowth and increasing Tortoise habitat area locally.	***

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
11E	Closed	None	0	None	Closed because route crosses private property, is in desert tortoise habitat, travels within 1/4 mile of a cultural site via riparian area, is in a high density route area and route proliferation is occurring. Closing would minimize effects to natural and cultural resources.	***
11EE	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide a similar link to Black Canyon City that the Agua Fria River provided while minimizing effects to riparian and desert tortoise habitat.	9982
11F	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to protect desert tortoise and desert wash habitat. Route is in a high density route area, route proliferation is occurring and the route has been converted to another type of use.	***
12	Mitigate/Open	Road	3	Local Road	Open to provide a main access to the area that bypasses main recreation sites. Route is a long distance connector to the west.	9999
12A	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to eliminate vehicle use in a reclaimed minesite. Allowing revegetation will minimize effects to desert tortoise and other wildlife habitat.	***
12B	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide primary private property right-of-way access and public access to permissive activities on private land.	9999F

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
12C	Recreation Site, not a route	***	***	***	Open two technical vehicle sites, accessible only by specialized vehicles, to provide a specialized sport activity site to to satisfy public demand. Designating and developing this site should minimize the creation of unauthorized sites elsewhere.	TV-2 TV-3
12EE	Mitigate/Open	Road	3	Local Road	Open to provide a main access to the area that bypasses main recreation sites. Route is a long distance connector to the west.	9999
12FF	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Route is open to provide access to a unique hilltop campsite and private property right-of-way access	9982A
12GG	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Route is open to provide access to a unique hilltop campsite.	9982A
12HH	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to minimize trespass, eliminate access to the Agua Fria river via Moore's Gulch. Closing this route would minimize effects to adjacent private land.	***
12I	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Route is open to provide camping opportunity on ridge line and egress from technical vehicle sites.	9999D
12II	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to minimize trespass, eliminate access to the Agua Fria river via Moore's Gulch. Closing this route would minimize effects to adjacent private land.	***

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
12J	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Route is open to provide pull off parking, mining claim access and general recreation opportunity near a main road. This route minimizes effects to resources by since it previously disturbed and possibly prevents the creation of a similar experience elsewhere.	9999E
12JJ	Closed	None	0	None	Closed because route begins on private property and represents a route proliferation opportunity in desert tortoise habitat and a high density route area.	***
12K	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to protect desert tortoise habitat. Route is in a high density area and route proliferation is occurring. Closing this route would minimize effects to desert tortoise habitat and indirectly riparian habitat by restricting vehicle use to routes 12J and 12.	***
12KK	Closed	None	0	None	Closed because route crosses private property. Route is in a desert wash and desert tortoise habitat and in a high density route area.	***
12KKK	Closed	None	0	None	Closed because route is in a high density route area and to protect desert tortoise habitat. Closing this route would minimize effects to natural resources by restricting use to adjacent routes and restoring soil and vegetation productivity.	***

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
12KKKK	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Route provides camping and day use access adjacent to a main road. This route minimizes effects to natural resources by possibly preventing the creation of of a similar experience elsewhere. Route is very short and will not be marked with a route number, but rather a campsite symbol denoting a disturbed area.	9999
12KKKKK	Closed	None	0	None	Closed because route is in a desert wash that leads to the Agua Fria River, in desert tortoise habitat and in a high density route area where route proliferation is occurring. Closing this route would minimize effects on natural resources by eliminating vegetation trampling and minimize conflict with non-motorized use near the Agua Fria River.	***
12L	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to protect desert tortoise habitat. Route is in a high density area and route proliferation is occurring. Closing this route would minimize effects to desert tortoise habitat and indirectly riparian habitat by restricting vehicle use to routes 12J and 12.	***
12LL	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Route is open due to being an ADOT public use road and provides access to areas east of I-17.	9983

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
12M	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to protect desert tortoise habitat. Route is in a high density area and route proliferation is occurring. Closing this route would minimize effects to desert tortoise habitat and indirectly riparian habitat by restricting vehicle use to routes 12J and 12.	***
12MM	Closed	None	0	None	Closed due to desert tortoise habitat, target shooting from a ridge into a valley and route proliferation is occurring. Closing this route would contribute to better overall management of the area. Power pole access by vehicle would be authorized on a case-by-case basis.	***
12N	Closed	None	0	None	Closed improve desert tortoise habitat in a high density route area where route proliferation is occurring.	***
12NN	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide parking, loading and camping opportunty adjacent to a main road. Retaining this route would help to minimize similar new disturbance elsewhere.	9991B
12NNN	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide parking, loading and camping opportunty adjacent to a main road. Retaining this route would help to minimize similar new disturbance elsewhere.	9999C
12NNNN	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to protect desert tortoise habitat and because route is eroding and in a high density	***

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
					route area.	
12P	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to improve desert tortoise habitat in an area where route proliferation is occuring. Closure would mitigate for tortoise habitat quality loss, thus minimizing effects on priority wildlife.	***
12PP	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide coordinated loop riding experiences off of maintained roads. Retaining this route will help to disperse recreationists, specifically OHV riders, thus minimizing conflicts with other recreationists and possibly preventing new trail creation	9991A
12Q	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Route is open to provide a scenic vista point overlooking the Agua Fria river. The route is closed between the peak and private property to prevent private land trespass, and further disturbance of a historic site on private land.	9999B
12QQ	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide coordinated loop riding experiences off of maintained roads. Retaining this route will help to disperse recreationists, specifically OHV riders, thus minimizing conflicts with other recreationists and possibly preventing new trail creation	9993

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
12RR	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide parking, loading and camping opportunty adjacent to a main road. Retaining this route would help to minimize similar new disturbance elsewhere.	9999A
12S	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to minimize private land trespass and unmanaged access to the Agua Fria River and a historic site.	***
12U	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to protect desert tortoise habitat and because route is in a high density route area, route proliferation is occurring and route has been converted to another type of use.	***
12V	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide access to a loop route with 12W, permitted jeep tours, mining claims and camping access. Retention of this route minimizes the need to drive in the Agua Fria River for recreation access, thus should allow for improved riparian condition.	9984
12V V	Mitigate/Limit	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Limited to Permitted mining claimant use to reduce traffic near the Agua Fria River, thus reducing the possibility of route proliferation allowing for improved riparian condition.	9985

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
12V V V	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide access to a loop route with 12W. This side route to 12V allows for camping, parking and day use without new ground disturbance . Retention of this route minimizes the need to drive in the Agua Fria River for recreation access, thus should allow for improved riparian condition.	9984
12W	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide access to a loop route with 12V, permitted jeep tours, mining claims and camping access. Retention of this route and sharing the route with Black Canyon Trail minimizes the need to drive in the Agua Fria River for recreation access, thus should allow for improved riparian condition and maintaining archaeological resources.	9985
12W W	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to more clearly delineate travel near sensitive archaeological sites, thus minimizing effects on cultural resources by reducing the number of places visitors would be driving and possibly disturbing sites.	***
12X	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide a main access to lands west and north. Retention of this route minimizes the need to drive through other juridictions and a riparian corridor outside this planning area to reach the same	9959

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
					destinations to the west, thus minimizing effects on natural resources and adjacent lands.	
12Y	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to protect desert tortoise habitat and because route travels through a desert wash, is in a high density route area and is in proximity of a special status species plant.	***
13	Mitigate/Open	Road	3	Local Road	Open to provide a main access road to a proposed campground and OHV staging area/training area. This road provides an alternative route bypassing private property and allows for the reduction of the number of river crossing points while still maintaining access, this minimizing effects on riparian resources.	9998
13A	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide a main access to the area that bypasses main recreation sites. Route is a long distance connector to the west.	9999
13AA	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide a coordinated looping motorized route where unlicensed vehicles can make a loop without using county roads.	9994
13AB	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to protect desert tortoise habitat and because route travels through a desert wash, is in a high density route area and route	***

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
					proliferation is occurring.	
13B	Closed	None	0	None	Closed because route crosses private property and to protect desert tortoise habitat. Route travels within 1/4 mile of a cultural site, is in a high density route area and route proliferation is occurring.	***
13BB	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide coordinated loop riding experiences off of maintained roads. Retaining this route will help to disperse recreationists, specifically OHV riders, thus minimizing conflicts with other recreationists and possibly preventing new trail creation	9990
13BBA	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to minimize trespass on private land and to assist with making a loop route with 13UU. Closing this route would minimize effects to adjacent private land.	***
13C	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to organize traffic flow on the main road through this area, reduce the opportunity for off-route vehicle play near the Agua Fria River and allow regeneration of vegetation thus minimizing effects to natural resources and wildlife habitat.	***

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
13CC	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to organize traffic flow on this planned loop route adjacent to OHV staging area. Closure would allow rehabilitation of a side wash in desert tortoise habitat, in a high density route area, thus minimizing effects on priority wildlife habitat.	***
13D	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to organize traffic flow on the main road through this area, reduce the opportunity for off-route vehicle play near the Agua Fria River and allow regeneration of vegetation thus minimizing effects to natural resources and wildlife habitat.	***
13DD	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide coordinated loop riding experiences off of maintained roads. Retaining this route will help to disperse recreationists, specifically OHV riders, thus minimizing conflicts with other recreationists and possibly preventing new trail creation	9991
13E	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to organize traffic flow on the main road through this area, reduce the opportunity for off-route vehicle play near the Agua Fria River and allow regeneration of vegetation thus minimizing effects to natural resources.	***

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
13EE	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to concentrate camping on this route at a proposed OHV staging area, thus minimizing effects on poor soils and desert tortoise habitat. Closing this route minimizes opportunity for route proliferation.	***
13F	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to organize traffic flow on the main road through this area, reduce the opportunity for off-route vehicle play near the Agua Fria River and allow regeneration of vegetation thus minimizing effects to natural resources.	***
13FF	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to concentrate camping on this route at a proposed OHV staging area, thus minimizing effects on poor soils and desert tortoise habitat. Closing this route minimizes opportunity for route proliferation.	***
13GG	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Route provides camping and day use access adjacent to a main road. This route minimizes effects to natural resources by possibly preventing the creation of of a similar experience elsewhere. Route is very short and will not be marked with a route number, but rather a campsite symbol denoting a disturbed area.	9991

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
13H	Closed	None	0	None	Closed because route crosses private land, is in a high density route area, travels within a riparian corridor and has issues with illegal dumping. Effects to riparian and wildlife habitat would minimized by the closure of this route by eliminating the trampling of cottonwood tree seedlings and allowing for the return of stream channeling.	***
13HH	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to organize traffic flow on the main road through this area, reduce the opportunity for off-route vehicle play near the Agua Fria River and allow regeneration of vegetation thus minimizing effects to natural resources and wildlife habitat.	***
13HHH	Closed	None	0	None	Closed because route crosses private land, is in a high density route area, travels within a riparian corridor and has issues with illegal dumping. Effects to riparian and wildlife habitat would minimized by the closure of this route by eliminating the trampling of cottonwood tree seedlings and allowing for the return of stream channeling.	***

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
13I	Mitigate/Limit	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Limit this primitive road to non-motorized use and administrative use only for access to the Black Canyon Trail. Limiting this route would reduce opportunity for driving in the Agua Fria River which would allow for vegetation regrowth, minimizing effects on riparian resources.	9981C
13J	Mitigate/Limit	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Limit this primitive road to mining claimant and administrative use only. Limiting this route would reduce opportunity for driving in the Agua Fria River which would allow for vegetation regrowth, minimizing effects on riparian resources.	***
13K	Mitigate/Limit	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Limit this primitive road to mining claimant and administrative use only. Limiting this route would reduce opportunity for driving in the Agua Fria River which would allow for vegetation regrowth, minimizing effects on riparian resources.	***
13L	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide an alternative technical driving experience in a previously disturbed location. Retention of this route will help minimize route proliferation by offering a desired experience and thus minimize effects on soil, vegetation and desert tortoise habitat.	9998C

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
13LL	Closed	None	0	None	Closed because route is eroding, is in a high density route area and closure and desert tortoise habitat. Closure would minimize effects to soil, vegetation and tortoise habitat.	***
13LLL	Closed	None	0	None	Closed because route is eroding, is in a high density route area and closure and desert tortoise habitat. Closure would minimize effects to soil, vegetation and tortoise habitat.	***
13N	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to eliminate a fall line trail in a non-motorized trail area. Closure would conserve soil resources and allow regrowth of vegetation, thus minizing effects on resources.	***
13P	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to eliminate a fall line trail in a non-motorized trail area. Closure would conserve soil resources and allow regrowth of vegetation, thus minizing effects on resources.	***
13Q	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to organize trail users ontoa coordinated trail loop system. Eliminating use and soil compaction on this route would allow for vegetation regrowth and recovery of desert tortoise habitat, thus minimizing effects on vegetation and wildlife resources.	***

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
13R	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to organize trail users onto a coordinated trail loop system. Eliminating use and soil compaction on this route would allow for vegetation regrowth and recovery of desert tortoise habitat, thus minimizing effects on vegetation and wildlife resources.	***
13S	Mitigate/Limit	Trail	1	None	Limit this primitive road to non-motorized use and administrative use to maximize the proposed non-motorized trail system tying into the Black Canyon Trail. Limiting this route minimizes conflicts between non-motorized trail users and other users in vehicles.	9986
13SS	Mitigate/Limit	Trail	1	None	Limit this primitive road to non-motorized use and administrative use to maximize the proposed non-motorized trail system tying into the Black Canyon Trail. Limiting this route minimizes conflicts between non-motorized trail users and other users in vehicles.	9986
13SSS	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to eliminate access to private land and organize trail users onto a coordinated loop system near the Black Canyon Trail. Closure minimizes effects to adjacent private land.	***

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
13T	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to organize trail users onto a coordinated trail loop system. Eliminating use and soil compaction on this route would allow for vegetation regrowth and recovery of desert tortoise habitat, thus minimizing effects on vegetation and wildlife resources.	***
13U	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to improve desert tortoise habitat in an area where route proliferation is occuring. Closure would mitigate for tortoise habitat quality loss, thus minimizing effects on priority wildlife.	***
13UU	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide coordinated loop riding experiences off of maintained roads. Retaining this route will help to disperse recreationists, specifically OHV riders, thus minimizing conflicts with other recreationists and possibly preventing new trail creation.	9990
13V	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to improve desert tortoise habitat in an area where route proliferation is occuring. Closure would mitigate for tortoise habitat quality loss, thus minimizing effects on priority wildlife.	***

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
13W	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to facilitate the creation of a fenced OHV training area which will use a portion of this existing primitive road. Closure of portions of this route not inside the training area will allow for regrowth of vegetation, thus minimizing effects on natural resources, wildlife and desert tortoise habitat.	***
13X	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide pull through access to proposed OHV staging area.	9998B
13XX	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide coordinated loop riding experiences off of maintained roads. Retaining this route will help to disperse recreationists, specifically OHV riders, thus minimizing conflicts with other recreationists and possibly preventing new trail creation	9990 9998B
13Y	Closed	None	0	None	Closed due to being incorporated into a new trail inside a proposed OHV training area.	***
13Z	Closed	None	0	None	Route accesses target locations in a closed shooting buffer zone, is proximate to a proposed trail location. Closure would reduce effects to desert tortoise habitat, reduce conflict and possible route proliferation near a proposed motorcycle trail.	***
14C	Mitigate/Open	Road	3	Local Road	Open to provide primary access to a proposed campground.	9998A

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
15	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide primary private property right-of-way access on the east side of I-17. This route is a public road with Right-of-way held by ADOT.	9983
16	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide primary private property right-of-way access, dispersed camping, OHV loop opportunity and Agua Fria river access.	9995
16A	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide primary private property right-of-way access, dispersed camping and Agua Fria river access. Mitigation for preventing driving in river will consist of placing a fence along river with lockable gate for land owner access.	9995
16AA	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to more effectively manage vehicle traffic near the river by reducing the number of access points to the river. Closure would improve riparian condition by eliminating vegetation trampling caused by vehicle driving.	***
16C	Closed	None	0	None	Closed since route is inaccessible from public land and vehicle driving in river is not allowed.	***
16D	Mitigate/Limit	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Route limited to mining claimant and administrative use. Closure to the public addresses most use in this part of the river and would improve riparian condition by eliminating the regular vegetation trampling caused by	***

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
					vehicle driving allowing for regrowth of vegetation.	
16DD	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to improve riparian condition in river. Closure addresses vegetation trampling caused by vehicle driving allowing for regrowth and habitat improvement.	***
16E	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to protect desert tortoise habitat and the river riparian corridor. Route is not well established and has only river access to get to it. Closure would minimize effects to natural resources.	***
16EE	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to protect desert tortoise habitat and riparian corridor. Route is a crossover between 16E, 16DD, both of which are closed.	***
16F	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide camping, ranching access and access to a lake vista viewpoint/campsite on 55GG. Route would be made more direct by blading a direct crossing of the river (rt 315) if needed to keep vehicle traffic from traversing the length of the river. Retention of this route minimizes effects to soil, vegetation and wildlife resources	9980

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
					by possibly preventing route proliferation in this area from visitors seeking a similar experience.	
16G	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide limited access for camping and day use along the river. A protective fence along the river will keep visitors from driving in the river, thus minimizing effects to riparian and wildlife resources.	9980 9980A
16H	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to simplify travel in this area and reduce maintenance needs as this route is eroding badly. Closure would minimize effects to soil resources by allowing for stabilization of soils and vegetation regrowth and improve visitor experiences by directly travel to better routes.	***
16I	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to reduce route density in desert tortoise habitat and the possiblity of vehicles accessing the adjacent non-motorized Black Canyon trail.	***
16J	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to reduce route density in desert tortoise habitat and eliminate private land trespass. Closure would minimize effects	***

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
					to private property, soil, vegetation and wildlife resources through the rehabilitation of this route.	
16K	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to reduce route density in desert tortoise habitat and route proliferation. 16J, the access route is closed, so there would be no access to this route. Closure would minimize effects to private property, soil, vegetation and wildlife resources through the elimination of all use and rehabilitation of this route.	***
16M	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to reduce the possibility of motor vehicle use on the Black Canyon Trail and reduce route density in desert tortoise habitat. Closure would minimize conflicts between motorized and non-motorized visitors	***
16N	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to reduce route density in desert tortoise habitat leading to larger habitat areas and reduce vehicle use in an area of non-motorized trails. Closure would minimize conflicts between motorized and non-motorized users.	***
16P	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to reduce route density in desert tortoise habitat leading to larger habitat areas and reduce vehicle use in an area of non-motorized trails. Closure would minimize conflicts between motorized and non-motorized	***

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
					users.	
16Q	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to reduce route density in desert tortoise habitat leading to larger habitat areas and reduce vehicle use in an area of non-motorized trails. This route complicates understandability of the route system in this area due to the high number of routes convening with 16U. Closure would minimize conflicts between motorized and non-motorized users and improve wildlife habitat.	***
16R	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide access to motorcycle trails and non-motorized trails by the most clear and direct path. Mitigation to clarify the route at the intersection with 16U will be needed to confine travel to upland areas, leading to improved resource and wildlife conditions. Retention of this route improves access, safety and visitor satisfaction using a previously disturbed alignment.	9994 9994A
16RR	Mitigate/Limit	Trail	1	None	Limitation to non-motorized use only provides access to a coordinated non-motorized loop trail system adjacent to the Black	9986E

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
					Canyon Trail.	
16S	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to reduce route density in desert tortoise habitat and improve understandability of the motorcycle trail area adjacent to a proposed OHV staging area. Closure would minimize effects to natural and wildlife resource by enlarging unroaded habitat areas in a densely roaded area. Conflict among motorcycle and larger OHVs would be minimized by limiting access to the motorcycle trail area.	***
16U	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide loop trail opportunity off of county roads for all uses.	9994
17	Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide a main access route through the central part of the area including access to Lake Pleasant Regional Park.	9997
172	Mitigate/Limit	Trail	1	None	Limitation to non-motorized use only of this new trail provides access to a coordinated non-motorized loop trail system adjacent to the Black Canyon Trail.	

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
17A	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide camping, ranching and general recreation access. Route would be closed beyond the campsite at 17C to prevent the possible reopening of a previously closed rock crawling site and route is badly eroding at descent into wash. Retention of this route could help to prevent the creation of new routes to access similar locations, thus minimizing effects on soil, vegetation, wildlife.	9951 9951A
17B	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to reduce route density in desert tortoise habitat. Route is in a desert wash where rock crawling has been closed due to driving through a spring. Closure would minimize effects to wildlife and vegetation by eliminating trampling of vegetation and premature draining of the spring from vehicles driving through it.	***
17BB	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to make the route system more understandable and effectively guide target shooters to areas open to shooting. Closure of this old Table Mesa Rd alignment minimizes effects to the adjacent mine by reducing opportunties to shoot inside the buffer zone and improves safety through reducing traffic entering the road.	***
17C	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide campsite and day use parking / access.	9951A

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
17CC	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to make the route system more understandable and effectively guide target shooters to areas open to shooting. Closure of this spur road minimizes effects to area visitors by reducing opportunties to shoot inside the buffer zone and improves safety through reducing traffic entering the road.	***
17D	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to ensure no target shooting near Lake Pleasant Park conservation area. Closure would minimize conflicts with Lake Pleasant conservation area designation by limiting the sound crossing property boundary	***
17DD	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide campsite and day use parking / access.	9951A
17E	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide a loop trail connection.	9951
17EE	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to reduce route density in desert tortoise habitat and reduce the possibility of further route proliferation. Closure would minimize effects to soil, vegetation and wildlife through the rehabiliation of this route, thus allowing regrowth of vegetation and stabilization of soils.	***

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
17F	Mitigate/Limit	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Limit this route to permitted or administrative use only to prevent route proliferation. Route will be gated and access allowed by special recreation permit or other land use authorization. Retention of this route minimizes effects to natural and wildlife resources by using a previously disturbed area for intense, route based, uses such as training.	***
17G	Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide primary private property right-of-way access and access to camp sites along this route.	9989
17GG	Closed	None	0	None	Closed because route is partially on State Land, in proximity to desert wash where wildlife value could be improved, in desert tortoise habitat and is in a high density route area where closure would improve understandability of the route system. Adjacent route 305(9993) provides more sustainable and desireable trail experiences.	***
17H	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to prevent further route proliferation.	***
17HH	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide parking, loading and camping opportunty adjacent to a main road. Retaining this route would help to minimize similar new disturbance elsewhere.	9997C

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
17I	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to prevent further route proliferation and dumping near a power pole access route.	***
17J	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide camping and a scenic vista point access.	9989A
17K	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide camping and a scenic vista point access.	9989A
17L	Mitigate/Limit	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Limited to Permitted mining claimant and administrative use.	***
17LL	Mitigate/Limit	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Limited to Permitted mining claimant and administrative use.	***
17M	Mitigate/Limit	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Limited to Permitted mining claimant and administrative use. Route is inside the boundary of an active mining operation.	***
17N	Mitigate/Limit	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Limited to Permitted mining claimant and administrative use. Route is inside the boundary of an active mining operation.	***
17P	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide loop trail opportunity off of county roads for all uses.	9993 9993A 9993B
17Q	Closed	None	0	None	Closed primarily to protect Black Canyon Trail users from unsafe target shooting across the trail. Closure would allow revegetation and regrowth of trees minimizing effects on natural resources.	***
17QQ	Closed	None	0	None	Closed primarily to protect Black Canyon Trail users from unsafe target shooting across the trail. Closure would allow revegetation and regrowth of trees minimizing effects on natural resources.	***
17R	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide loop trail opportunity off of county roads	9993

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
					for all uses.	
17S	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide parking, loading, camping and possibly safe shooting opportunty adjacent to a main road. Retaining this route would help to minimize similar new disturbance elsewhere.	9993C
17T	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide loop trail opportunity off of county roads for all uses and access to an area where target shooting is allowed provided safety conditions are met.	9993 9993D
17TT	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide access to a popular target shooting site.	9997A
17U	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide a long distance driving opportunity in conjunction with a major powerline access road.	9954
17UU	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide camping, target shooting site access and staging adjacent to a main road. This route minimizes effects to natural resources by possibly preventing the creation of of a similar experience elsewhere.	9954
17V	Mitigate/Limit	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Limit to right-of-way holder and administrative use to reduce vehicle use and consequently target shooting from the top of a hill toward Black Canyon Trail in this high use area. Camping is permitted within 100ft of main road.	***

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
17W	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to protect desert wash and desert tortoise habitat from continued vehicle driving. Route has illegal dumping issues and is in a high density route area. Closure would minimize effects on wildlife and reduce conflicts with trail users on 9333.	***
17WW	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to protect desert tortoise habitat and wash habitat in a high use area where closure would minimize effects from continued vehicle driving.	***
17X	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide parking, loading, camping and possibly safe shooting opportunty adjacent to a main road. Retaining this route would help to minimize similar new disturbance elsewhere.	9997A
17XX	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to better manage visitation along a main road, reduce barren areas thus improving desert tortoise habitat, vegetation and soil resources.	***
19	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide a loop trail connection, ranch allotment boundary, mining claim and powerline access. Mitigation to prevent further soil loss would include the placement of earthen water diversion structures on the route to stop soil loss.	9952
19A	Mitigate/Limit	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Limited to Permitted mining claimant and administrative use. Route is inside the boundary of	***

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
					an active mining operation.	
19AA	Mitigate/Limit	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Limited to Permitted mining claimant and administrative use. Route is inside the boundary of an active mining operation.	***
19B	Mitigate/Limit	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Limited to Permitted mining claimant and administrative use. Route is inside the boundary of an active mining operation.	***
19BB	Mitigate/Limit	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Limited to Permitted mining claimant and administrative use. Route is inside the boundary of an active mining operation.	***
19C	Mitigate/Limit	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Limited to Permitted mining claimant and administrative use. Route is inside the boundary of an active mining operation.	***
19D	Mitigate/Limit	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Limited to Permitted mining claimant and administrative use. Route is inside the boundary of an active mining operation.	***
19E	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide a long distance driving opportunity in conjunction with a minor powerline access road.	9953
19F	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide parking, loading, camping and possibly safe shooting opportunty outside of a shooting closure zone. Retaining this route would help to minimize similar new disturbance elsewhere.	9953A

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
19G	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide parking, loading, camping and possibly safe shooting opportunty outside of a shooting closure zone. Retaining this route would help to minimize similar new disturbance elsewhere.	9953B
19GG	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide access to a technical vehicle site and scenic vista point.	9953
19H	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide connection to other routes comprising a coordinated loop route network and permitted uses such as ranching and mining claim access.	9953C
19HH	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to reduce route density in desert tortoise habitat and reduce proliferation of routes in proximity of a desert wash. Closure would minimize effects on soil, vegetation and wildlife collectively.	***
19HHH	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to disturbed area footprint leading to improved desert tortoise habitat. Camping is allowed within 100 feet of route 19. Closure would minimize effects to priority wildlife.	***
19I	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide connection to other routes comprising a coordinated loop route network. Mitigation for soil loss would include placing earthen water diversion structures on hills to	9951

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
					stop soil loss.	
19J	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to simplify navigation through this area and reduce route density, thus improving desert tortoise habitat by increased vegetation cover and forage.	***
19K	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to protect desert wash and desert tortoise habitat. Route accesses a spring resource and is part of a route previously closed to rock crawling.	***
19N	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide connection to other routes comprising a coordinated loop route network. Mitigation for soil loss would include placing earthen water diversion structures on hills to stop soil loss. Access to state lands would only be permitted with proper permission from ASLD.	9952
20	Mitigate/Limit	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Limited to ranching permitted and administrative use to prevent access to state lands and minimize access points to BLM land, thus making management and law enforcement efforts more successful.	***
20A	Closed	None	0	None	Closed due to no public access on 20.	***

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
21	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide a long distance driving opportunity in conjunction with a major powerline access road. Access to state lands will be be restricted by a locked gate to permitted users administrative users.	9954
21A	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide a scenic vista point and cell phone use to improve safety. Mitigation for route proliferation onto Black Canyon Trail on the west side of this hill may include a barrier, obliteration of tracks and revegetation.	9954A
21B	Mitigate/Limit	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Limited to right-of-way holder and administrative users. Closure to the public would minimize effects on natural resources by limiting the places where route proliferation could occur away from a main route.	***
21C	Mitigate/Limit	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Limited to right-of-way holder and administrative users. Closure to the public would minimize effects on natural resources by limiting the places where route proliferation could occur away from a main route.	***
21D	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to protect desert tortoise habitat. Closure would improve desert tortoise habitat by increasing vegetation cover and forage.	***

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
21E	Mitigate/Limit	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Limited to ranching permitted and administrative use to simplify loop trail system and minimize use at a grazing improvement.	***
21F	Mitigate/Limit	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Limited to rights-of-way holders, permitted and administrative users to prevent unauthorized access to state lands and minimize access points to BLM land, thus making management and law enforcement efforts more successful.	9954
21I	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to prevent unauthorized access from state land and 22AC where this route begins is closed to public use. This route is redundant for permittees since 22AC will be open for their use.	***
22AA	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to reduce route density in desert tortoise habitat. Closure would minimize effects to priority wildlife by allowing revegetation and thus increase cover and forage.	***
22AAA	Closed	None	0	None	Closed because route enters/allows access to State Land in an area where management will be difficult. Closure will allow for a manageable volume of trail users accessing from Table Mesa Road. Continued uncontrolled access from New River Road would likely lead to unsustainable and incompatible uses. Closure will minimize conflict between loop	***

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
					trail motorized users and non-motorized users on the Black Canyon Trail. Drive up target shooting access would be directed to Table Mesa Road area adding to the sustainabilility of quality trail based recreation and wildlife habitat in this area.	
22AAB	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Route is open to allow a long distance coordinated loop route, primarily for motorized trail users. Straightening this route in the vicinity of two fence gates to avoid them would mitigate for wear and tear on range fences.	9949
22AAC	Mitigate/Limit	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Limited to rights-of-way holders, permitted and administrative users to prevent unauthorized access to state lands and minimize access points to BLM land, thus making management and law enforcement efforts more successful.	***
22AAD	Closed	None	0	None	Closed due to connectivity with 22AAA which accesses state land.	***
22B	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to reduce route density in desert tortoise and deer habitat. Closure would allow for revegetation of the route, thus increasing cover and forage and minimizing disturbance to priority wildlife.	***

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
22C	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to reduce route density in desert tortoise and deer habitat. Closure would allow for revegetation of the route, thus increasing cover and forage and minimizing disturbance to priority wildlife.	***
22D	Closed	None	0	None	Same as 22AAA	
22E	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to reduce route density in desert tortoise habitat, improve manageability of the loop trail system by reducing navigational ambiguity and reduce visitation near abandoned mines. Closure would improve habitat for desert tortoise, soil, vegetation and air resources, thus minimizing the effects of the adjacent loop trail.	***
22F	Closed	None	0	None	Same as 22E	***
22G	Closed	None	0	None	Same as 22E	***
22H	Closed	None	0	None	Same as 22E	***
22J	Closed	None	0	None	Same as 22E	***
22K	Closed	None	0	None	Same as 22E	***
22L	Closed	None	0	None	Same as 22E	***
22M	Closed	None	0	None	Same as 22AAA	***
22MM	Closed	None	0	None	Same as 22E	***
22N	Closed	None	0	None	Same as 22AAA	***
22V	Closed	None	0	None	Same as 22AAA	***
22Z	Mitigate/Limit	Trail	1	None	Limited to non-motorized use to allow for side loops to the Black Canyon Trail. Limitation would minimize conflicts between motorized and non-motorized use by containing motorized use to the loop trail(22ZA).	9948

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
22ZA	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide a coordinated looping motorized route.	9949
244	Closed	None	0	None	Closed due to vehicle manageability and a lack of legal access from Black Canyon City. Vehicle use in the Agua Fria River will be difficult to prevent without this route closure. Closure would minimize damage to riparian resources and improve desert tortoise habitat by allowing revegetation and thus improved cover and forage.	***
245	Closed	None	0	None	Same as 244	
246	Closed	None	1	None	Closed to eliminate a the need to cross private land to access public land. A new non-motorized nature trail from Rock Springs will replace this route. Closure would reduce long term occupancy trespass issues and improve desert tortoise habitat and wildlife habitat by allowing for revegetation of the route, thus improving cover and forage.	***
247	Closed	None	0	None	Closed because route enters private land at an undesired point.	***
248	Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to allow a primary access to private property and recreation access from Black Canyon City. Mitigation for dust suppression may be required to minimize effects to adjacent I-17.	9996

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
25	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to allow general recreation access and administrative access to developed wildlife waters. Access across state trust land requires the proper permission be obtained by visitors.	9950
250	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide a main access route from Black Canyon City to AZCO Mine Road. Retention of this route minimizes effects to riparian resources and non-motorized trail use in the Agua Fria river by providing an alternate route for vehicles that were using 315(HorseShoe Bar river access).	9982
258	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide coordinated loop riding experiences off of maintained roads. Retaining this route will help to disperse recreationists, specifically OHV riders, thus minimizing conflicts with other recreationists and possibly preventing new trail creation	9992
258A	Mitigate/Limit	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Limited to right-of-way holder and administrative users. Closure on this pipeline road to the public would minimize travel on state lands to the south as requested by ASLD. Loop trail experiences on 258(9992) would be improved through the minimization of access points to the loop trail.	***

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
25A	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide access to an AGFD wildlife water	9950A
25H	Mitigate/Limit	Trail	1	None	Limited to non-motorized use to allow for side loops to the Black Canyon Trail. Limitation would minimize conflicts between motorized and non-motorized use by containing motorized use to the loop trail(25HA).	9948A
25HA	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide a coordinated looping motorized route.	9949
25HH	Closed	None	0	None	Closed because starts on State Land and route proliferation is a concern. Closure would also minimize effects of loop trails on desert tortoise habitat by allowing revegetation on this route and thus improve cover and forage.	***
261	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide primary access to the planning area. Road is a primary private property access.	9999
262	Mitigate/Limit	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Limited to right-of-way holder and administrative use to prevent target shooting and other activities that would interfere with a coordinated motorized loop route on the adjacent hill to the south(305)	***
263	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide parking, camping access near a main road. Route will have a limited access barrier at the intersection with a coordinated loop route (305).	9993E
264	Closed	None	0	None	Closed due to being redundant to another route (258).	***

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
265	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to organize the route system and make it understandable in a high density route area. Closure would allow for revegetation of the route and surrounding area, thus improving the visual horizon along the main access road to the area.	***
266	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to rehabilitate a closed target shooting area. Closure would allow for revegetation of the route and surrounding area, thus improving the visual horizon along the main access road to the area.	9998
267	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to eliminate a fall line trail in a motorcycle trail area. Closure would conserve soil resources and allow regrowth of vegetation, thus minizing effects on resources.	***
268	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to reduce route density in desert tortoise habitat, improve manageability of the loop trail system by reducing navigational ambiguity where several routes come together. Closure would improve habitat for desert tortoise, soil, vegetation, thus minimizing the effects of the adjacent loop trails.	***

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
269	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to protect a spring at the west end, desert wash and desert tortoise habitat. Route also has illegal dumping issues, is used for recreational shooting in unsafe locations. Closure would improve natural resource conditions, minimize conflict with a loop route (9993) and reduce trash in an intermittent waterway connecting to the Agua Fria river.	***
270	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open a new route to allow connection of a loop trail away from a county road.	9993
271	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to allow connection of a coordinated loop route away from a county road.	9993
274	Recreation Site, not a route	***	***	***	Open this technical vehicle site, accessible only by specialized vehicles, to provide a specialized sport activity site to to satisfy public demand. Designating and developing this site should minimize the creation of unauthorized sites elsewhere.	TV-1
276	Closed	None	0	None	Closed due to redundancy and connects to a route that is only open to permitted/admin use. This route connects one closed route to an admin only route.	***
277	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to connect a coordinated long distance loop route connecting with 9949. Retaining this route would help to minimize similar new disturbance	9949

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
					elsewhere.	
277A	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to reduce route density in desert tortoise habitat, improve manageability of the loop trail system by reducing navigational decision points. Closure would improve habitat for desert tortoise, soil, vegetation, thus minimizing the effects caused by the adjacent loop trail.	***
278	Closed	None	0	None	Same as 22E	***
279	Closed	None	0	None	Same as 22E	***
280	Closed	None	0	None	Same as 22M	***
281	Closed	None	0	None	Same as 22E	***
282	Closed	None	0	None	Same as 22E	***
283	Closed	None	0	None	Same as 22E	***
284	Closed	None	0	None	Same as 22E	***
285	Closed	None	0	None	Same as 22AAA	***
286	Closed	None	0	None	Same as 22AAA	***
300	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to reduce navigational decision points in a high density route area. Closure would improve soil and vegetaton resources in a highly disturbed area along a new pipeline corridor, thus helping to minimize visual effects in the area.	***
301	Closed	None	0	None	Closed since route begins on private land and is inaccessible from public land. Closure would reduce private land trespass and minimize opportunity for target	***

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
					shooting near a coordinate OHV loop route(9990).	
305	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open this new primitive road to provide loop trail opportunity off of county roads for all uses.	9991
306	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open this new primitive road to provide loop trail opportunity off of county roads for all uses.	9993
307	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open this new primitive road to provide a coordinated long distance looping motorized route.	9449
308	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open this new primitive road to provide a coordinated long distance looping motorized route.	9449
309	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open this new primitive road to provide a coordinated long distance looping motorized route away from county roads.	9993
310	Recreation Site, not a route	***	***	***	Open this new access to TV-3 Technical Vehicle Site to avoid private property. A limiting device will be placed to deter vehicles without the necessary equipment to traverse the site.	TV-3
311	Mitigate/Open	Trail	1	None	Open this new 50" wide trail in the wash next to the Moore's Gulch public road for access to routes on the east side of I-17 using unlicensed vehicles.	9883A

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
312	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open this new primitive road to provide a coordinated loop route off of county roads and adjacent to an OHV staging area.	9990
313	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open this new primitive road to provide a coordinated loop route off of county roads and adjacent to an OHV staging area.	9990
314	Recreation Site, not a route	***	***	***	Open this new access route and technical vehicle site accessible only by specialized vehicles to avoid private property and provide a new site to to satisfy public demand. Designating and developing this site should minimize the creation of unauthorized sites elsewhere.	TV-6
315	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open this new primitive road to eliminate ambiguity of the route crossing the Agua Fria river. Route will only be built if traffic traversing 500ft of the Agua Fria river connecting 16F/G(9980) together does not stay on the shortest existing path in the river channel.	9980
316	Mitigate/Limit	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Limit this route to non-motorized uses to allow riparian condition to improve in the Agua Fria river. Closure to motor vehicles would reduce the disturbance in the area, allowing for regrowth of vegetation thus improving bird and other wildlife habitat.	9956

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
317	Mitigate/Limit	Trail	1	None	Limit to this new trail non-motorized uses to connect a non-motorized trail system adjacent to the Black Canyon Trail and a campground.	9986B
318	Mitigate/Limit	Trail	1	None	Limit to this new trail non-motorized uses to connect a non-motorized trail system adjacent to the Black Canyon Trail and a campground.	9986A
319	Mitigate/Limit	Trail	1	None	Limit to this new trail to motorized and non-motorized uses 24" or less to connect a motorized trail system adjacent to an OHV staging area.	9998, 9988A, 9988B, 9988C
320	Mitigate/Limit	Trail	1	None	Limit to this new trail to motorized and non-motorized uses 24" or less to connect a motorized trail system adjacent to an OHV staging area.	9988
321	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open this new primitive road to provide access from Black Canyon City while avoiding driving in the Agua Fria River. This route mitigates the loss of using the Agua Fria river as a vehicle route.	9982
322	Mitigate/Limit	Trail	1	None	Limit to this new trail to motorized and non-motorized uses 24" or less to connect a motorized trail system adjacent to an OHV staging area.	9987A
323	Mitigate/Limit	Trail	1	None	Limit to this new trail non-motorized uses to provide a nature trail experience in cooperation with Rock Springs	9947

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
					Café.	
324	Mitigate/Limit	Trail	1	None	Limit to this new trail non-motorized uses to connect a non-motorized trail system adjacent to the Black Canyon Trail and a campground.	9986C
325	Recreation Site, not a route	***	***	***	Open this technical vehicle site, accessible only by specialized vehicles, to provide a specialized sport activity site to to satisfy public demand. Designating and developing this site should minimize the creation of unauthorized sites elsewhere.	TV-4
326	Recreation Site, not a route	***	***	***	Open this technical vehicle site, accessible only by specialized vehicles, to provide a specialized sport activity site to to satisfy public demand. Designating and developing this site should minimize the creation of unauthorized sites elsewhere.	TV-5
31GG	Mitigate/Limit	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Same as 258A	***
55DD	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to protect desert tortoise habitat. Route is in proximity to a desert wash, in a high density route area and in an area where route proliferation is occurring.	***
55EE	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide camping and general recreation access. Mitigation for access to state lands will include a barrier where this route ends at the boundary	9980

Analysis Number	Final Management Decision	BLM Asset Type	Maintenance Intensity	Functional Class	Abbreviated reason for decision	Official BLM Sign Number
					with state land.	
55FF	Mitigate/Open	Primitive Road	1	Resource Road	Open to provide camping and access to scenic lake overlook point. This route provides a vehicle accessible, unique vantage point of the lake.	9980B
55GG	Closed	None	0	None	Closed to improve desert tortoise habitat in an area where minimizing routes would improve habitat. Closure would mitigate for tortoise habitat quality loss, thus minimizing effects on priority wildlife.	***

The Table shown below was created at the beginning of the route evaluation process to summarize the criteria for opening, closing or limiting routes. Two alternatives were created prior to the Travel Management Plan using the best available information and data at that time. The Option 1: Preferred option route system was used to as the base to formulate the final route system in this plan.

Route Evaluation Criteria

This chart is not the only tool used to help arrive at a proposed alternative. This chart helps to provide some direction while evaluating routes, but it does not force the team members to choose a specific alternative. This chart does not, and is not intended to, replace professional judgment while evaluating routes.

Commercial / Administrative / Private Property Access

Access / Uses	Option 1- Preferred	Option 2- Most Environmental Protection
Wildlife Catchments	Allow at least one 2 track road access to each catchments for admin/ hunter access.	If hunting is the only Admin/ public use for this route limit to admin only. If there are other Admin/ Public uses allow public access.

Mining Claims	Allow public and admin access if there are no overriding environmental concerns. If there are overriding environmental concerns mitigate if possible and allow public and admin access or limit to Admin only if mitigation is not possible.	Allow public and admin access if there are no overriding environmental concerns. If there are overriding environmental concerns such as riparian areas or tortoise habitat limit to Admin only.
Range Facilities	Allow public and admin access if there are no overriding environmental concerns. If there are overriding environmental concerns mitigate if possible and allow public and admin access or limit to Admin only if mitigation is not possible. If facilities are being vandalized consider limiting to admin only.	Allow public and admin access if there are no overriding environmental concerns. If there are overriding environmental concerns mitigate if possible and allow public and admin access or limit to Admin only if mitigation is not possible. If facilities are being vandalized consider limiting to admin only.
Routes Leading to Private Property	Allow public and admin access if there are no overriding environmental concerns. If there are overriding environmental concerns mitigate if possible and allow public and admin access or limit to Admin only if mitigation is not possible. For all routes crossing private property attempt to obtain an easement. For routes crossing private property, where there is concern that public access may be restricted, construct a bypass route around the private.	Allow public and admin access if there are no overriding environmental concerns. If there are overriding environmental concerns mitigate if possible and allow public and admin access or limit to Admin only if mitigation is not possible. For all routes crossing private property attempt to obtain an easement. For routes crossing private property, where public access may be restricted, no reroute will be proposed.
Utilities	All utility access roads currently being used by the public will remain open to the public with mitigation if necessary. Utility roads not currently being used by the public will be limited to admin use only.	Allow public and admin access if there are no overriding environmental concerns. If there are overriding environmental concerns mitigate if possible and allow public and admin access or limit to Admin only if mitigation is not possible. The segments of utility roads currently

		being used by the public which are necessary for connectivity will remain open with mitigation if there are overriding environmental concerns.
Administrative Uses- monitoring, enforcement, etc.	Allow public and admin access if there are no overriding environmental concerns. If there are overriding environmental concerns mitigate if possible and allow public and admin access or limit to Admin only if mitigation is not possible.	Allow public and admin access if there are no overriding environmental concerns. If there are overriding environmental concerns such as riparian areas or tortoise habitat limit to Admin only.
Route Connectivity/ Portal Access Routes/ Access to Adjoining Agency Land	Allow public and admin access with mitigation if necessary.	Restrict portal access to the minimal number of routes needed to serve the area. Use mitigation if necessary.
Special Use Permits (Jeep tour, horse back riding tours)	Allow public access on SRP routes but steer public use towards open routes.	Consider limiting SRP routes to admin only.

Environmental Concerns / Special Resources

Access / Uses	Option B- Preferred	Option C- Most Environmental Protection
TES species	Follow any existing conservation plans. Use adaptive management monitoring to reduce impacts to the species. Follow the recommendations from RMP Appendix T (?) regarding mitigation.	Follow any existing conservation plans. Use adaptive management monitoring to reduce impacts to the species. Follow the recommendations from RMP Appendix T (?) regarding mitigation. If there are CAPP uses and public uses allow public access. If there are only CAPP uses limit to admin only. If there are only public uses consider seasonal closures, limiting by use type, or closing the route.
Wilderness	Motorized routes in wilderness will be closed. For non-motorized routes refer to the wilderness	Motorized routes in wilderness will be closed. For non-motorized routes refer to the wilderness management plan.

	management plan.	
Wilderness Characteristics	Consider allowing routes to meet travel management goals and mitigate to maintain settings.	Remove motorized routes from these areas.
Known Cultural Sites or Area/Polygon or Suspected/Modeled Cultural Site- Priority Areas for Public Use	Follow RMP decision. Routes will likely be left open if they are not damaging the site- mitigation may be applied.	Follow RMP decision. Routes will likely be left open if they are not damaging the site- mitigation may be applied.
Known Cultural Sites or Area/Polygon or Suspected/Modeled Cultural Site- Priority Areas Protected	Follow RMP decision. Route would likely be closed if it affects or is likely to affect the site. Routes that lead to interpretive sites will likely be left open.	Follow RMP decision. Route would likely be closed if it affects or is likely to affect the site. Routes that lead to interpretive sites will likely be left open.
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)	Follow the RMP decision.	Follow the RMP decision.
General Management Units	Refer to the RMP decision.	Refer to the RMP decision.
High Density Route Areas	Refer to the SRMA decisions in the RMP.	Refer to the SRMA decisions in the RMP.
Route Proliferation Area	Create looping routes. Sign/ mitigate to reduce proliferation off of spurs.	Close spur routes in areas of route proliferation or where proliferation is likely.
Habitat Fragmentation	Work with AZ Game and Fish to manage habitat by maintaining current route density.	Attempt to reduce route density. Close routes where feasible.
Individual Wildlife Species	Follow state wide conservation plans, studies, or recommendations.	Follow state wide conservation plans, studies, or recommendations.
Individual Plant Species	Follow state wide conservation plans, studies, or recommendations.	Follow state wide conservation plans, studies, or recommendations.
Riparian	Refer to RMP Appendix T (?). Mitigate routes near riparian areas by rerouting around the area or bridging the areas before closing	Refer to RMP Appendix T (?). Close routes that are affecting or are likely to affect riparian condition.

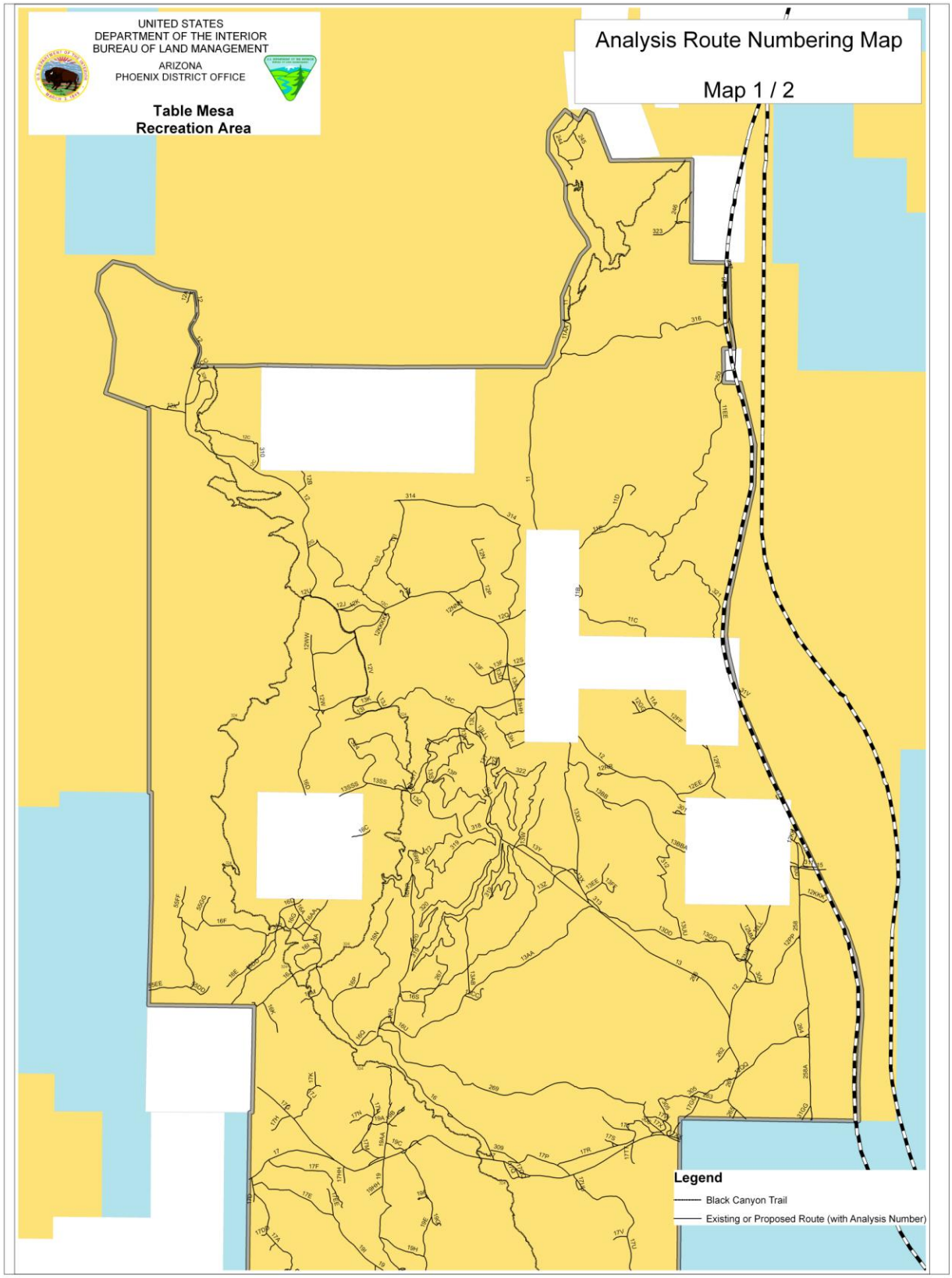
	routes.	
Wash	Allow use in washes that are currently being used as routes.	Minimize the use of washes. Seek to eliminate the use of washes when upland routes are available in the area.
Soils	Mitigate or close routes that are located within the PM10 area that have silty soils. If route erosion rates do not comply with land health standards mitigate to reduce erosion or close if necessary.	Seek to reduce the route density in the PM10 area. If route erosion rates do not comply with land health standards mitigate to reduce erosion or close if necessary.
Poor Route Condition/ Safety Concerns	Leave open routes that could easily repaired. If routes cannot be repaired easily possibly limit by use type until the route can be repaired.	For tertiary routes: Close routes with resource or hazardous conditions. For primary or secondary routes: improve route condition or mitigate to reduce safety concerns.
Shooting Areas	Leave routes open to the "safe" shooting sites with mitigation and adaptive management. Routes will be closed if there is dumping or resource damage.	Close spur routes where dumping and resource damage is occurring.
Dumping	For spur route in urban interface areas possibly close route to prevent dumping. For spur routes in remote areas that are used for camping clean up dumping and retain the route for camping use.	Close all spur routes with dumping.

Recreation / Public Uses

Access / Uses	Option B- Preferred	Option C- Most Environmental Protection
Public Uses in General	Provide access for public uses where possible. Mitigate possible conflicting uses.	Provide access for public uses where possible. Where there are possible conflicting uses separate the uses.
SRMA	Refer to the decisions in the RMP for the individual SRMAs.	Refer to the decisions in the RMP for the individual SRMAs and reduce use in

		washes. Reduce route density outside the SRMAs.
RMZ	Refer to the decisions in the RMP.	Refer to the decisions in the RMP and reduce use in washes.

*Depending on the nature and severity of resource concerns:


UNITED STATES
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ARIZONA
PHOENIX DISTRICT OFFICE
Table Mesa
Recreation Area
Analysis Route Numbering Map
Map 1 / 2
Legend
Black Canyon Trail
Existing or Proposed Route (with Analysis Number)

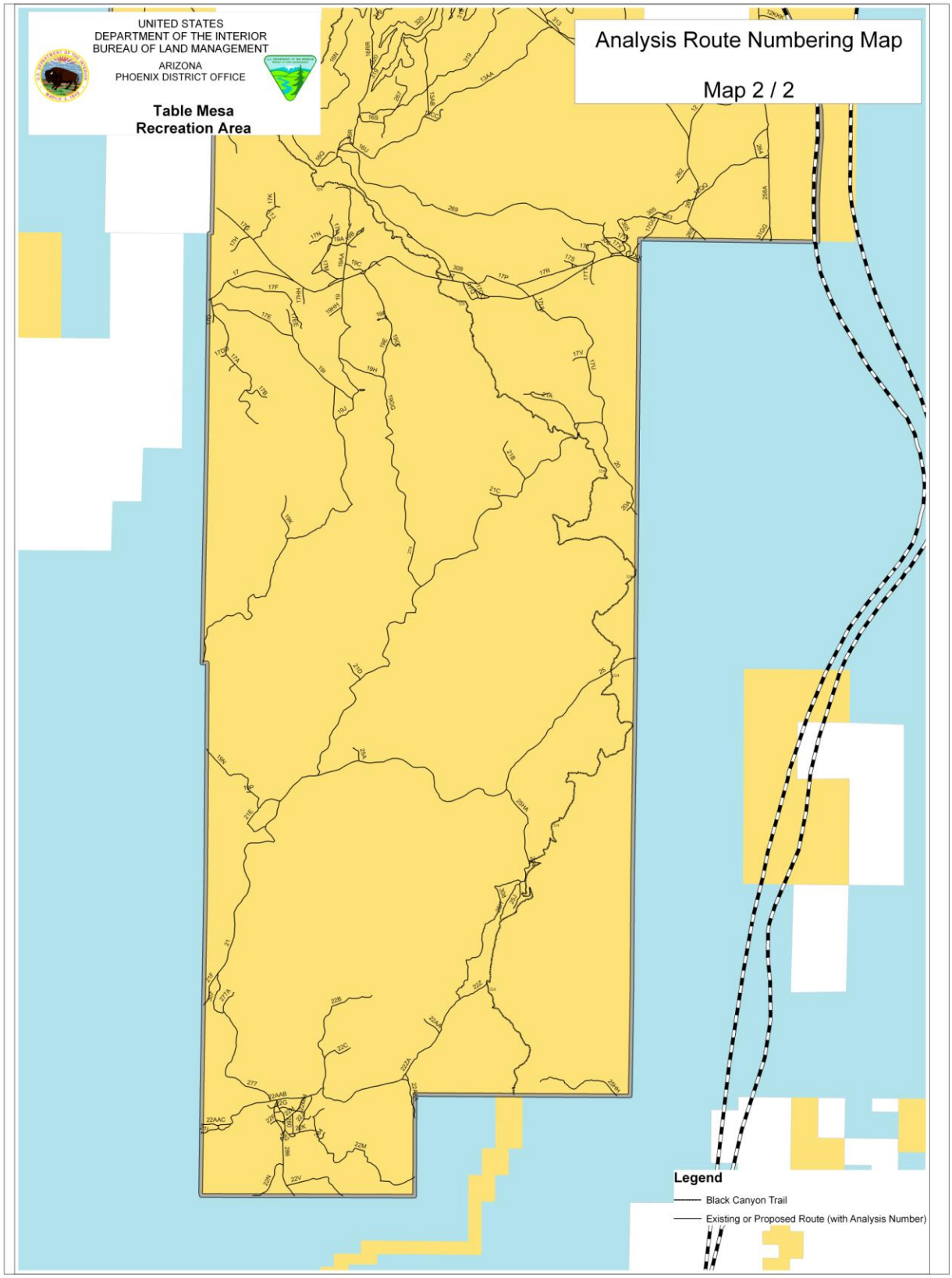
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Table Mesa
Recreation Area
Analysis Route Numbering Map
Map 2 / 2
Legend
Black Canyon Trail
Existing or Proposed Route (with Analysis Number)

APPENDIX F: VISUAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION	
Project Name: Table Mesa RMZ	
KOP: 1 3760998 N 390439 E Elevation: 1718 ‘	
KOP VRM Class - III	
VIEW – south, west	

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION			
	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Rolling ridges and mountain views with the Bradshaw Mountains in the background. Jagged intrusive objects from dumping in foreground and middle ground views.	Scrub, cacti	None
LINE	Rugged and flat mountain ridges.	Scattered and full	None

COLOR	Green and brown dominate the landscape with some silver vegetation and yellow flowers. A variety of synthetic colors from dumping household and commercial goods evident.	Green and browns of native trees, scrubs, and cacti	None
TEXTURE	Rocks and ground look porous while the rolling hills and slopes in the foreground and mid-ground add dimension. Dump in foreground and middle ground add additional unnatural texture.	Mixture of cacti and native trees and shrubs vary in size and shape.	None

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION			
	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Rolling ridges and mountain views with the Bradshaw Mountains in the background. Jagged articles will be removed and area would be restored to its natural state.	Scrub, cacti	None
LINE	Rugged and flat mountain ridges.	Scattered and full	None
COLOR	Green and brown dominate the landscape with some silver vegetation and yellow flowers. Natural colors would be restored to landscape.	Green and browns of native trees, scrubs, and cacti	None

TEXTURE	Rocks and ground look porous while the rolling hills and slopes in the foreground and mid-ground add dimension. Texture is natural.	Mixture of cacti and native trees and shrubs vary in size and shape.	None

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING – LONG TERM

Elements of Form, Line, Color, and Texture for Land/Water Body

Form = moderate

Line = strong

Color = strong

Texture = strong

Elements of Form, Line, Color, and Texture for Vegetation

Form = moderate

Line = moderate

Color = strong

Texture = strong

There are no structures.

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? Yes

The proposed plan has an outreach component that encourages the public to help guard against dumping and to become more active in land stewardship. This means the formation of groups that will take care and adopt this area. Currently, the Table Mesa Area Coalition is taking on this task and is open to those interested in protecting the areas which the public enjoys their time for recreation and re-creation of their mind, body, and spirit.

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended? Yes

The proposed plan would improve visual resources management by providing for additional law enforcement support and additional citizen groups to work together and to foster care of the area.

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION	
Project Name: Table Mesa RMZ	
KOP: 2 Black Canyon National Recreation Trail Trailhead and Servicing Road 3761046 N 392133 E Elevation: 1856 ‘	
KOP VRM Class - III	
VIEW – north	

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION			
	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Mountain and mesa views surround area with the Bradshaw Mountains in the background.	Scrub, cacti	Trailhead signage and abandoned wildcat fire ring.
LINE	Foreground hilltops and mesa with horizontal lines in foreground, and jagged mid, and background lines. Variety of lines converging from jagged mountain peaks to mesa tops.	Saguaro on foreground horizontal lines with shrub and desert trees.	Large utility line running horizontally and three vertical towers southeast mid ground.

COLOR	Desert white- tan soil with green and brown dominate the landscape with some silver vegetation and yellow flowers. The variety of topography lends to browns and grays of mesas, hills, and mountains.	Green and browns of native trees, scrubs, and cacti. Background topographic features hover with browns and grays.	Large utility line and tower introduce silver to the mid-ground.
TEXTURE	Terrain textures range from smooth to medium rough.	Mixture of cacti and native trees and shrubs vary in size and shape from being frail to healthy.	Smooth roadway with incongruous larger rocks.

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION			
	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Mountain and mesa views surround area with the Bradshaw Mountains in the background.	New parking/camping facilities will clear vegetation.	New parking/camping facilities will be an impact with accompanying signage.
LINE	New parking and camping facilities will result in additional lines in the foreground.	Scattered vegetation will line the perimeter of the cleared area.	Visible line in foreground.
COLOR	Green and brown dominate the landscape with some silver vegetation and yellow flowers. More exposed white-tan soil.	Disturbed by new facilities.	Brown signage and white-tan soil outlining new facilities.

TEXTURE	The parking facility will create a large smooth area, while the area west of the parking area will be reclaimed to smooth to medium rough.	Textural changes from disturbing vegetation to create a parking facility and campground.	Hard and smooth signs and information dispensing alternatives. Smooth to semi-smooth roadway and parking area.

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING – LONG TERM – Degree of Contrast

Elements of Form, Line, Color, and Texture for Land/Water Body

Form = moderate

Line = strong

Color = strong

Texture = strong

Elements of Form, Line, Color, and Texture for Vegetation

Form = moderate

Line = moderate

Color = moderate

Texture = strong

There are no structures.

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? Yes

The proposed plan address parking needs for the Black Canyon National Recreation Trail. It is projected that this trailhead will be a popular stopping area to experience the trail and by providing a parking area it will reduce the visual impact of torn up vegetation by trail users finding a parking space. Signs will encourage the right type of use and reduce wildcat campfire rings as campers will be directed to the camping area.

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended? Yes

The proposed plan would improve visual resources management by providing for additional law enforcement support and additional citizen groups to work together and to foster care of the area.

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION	
Project Name: Table Mesa RMZ	
KOP: 3 Mica Mine Road 3762099 N 3939433 E Elevation: 1917 ‘	
KOP VRM Class - III	
VIEW – northwest	

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION			
	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Gentle rolling hills in foreground lead to open foreground. Bradshaw Mountains in background.	Scrubs, cacti	High tension wires and tower in mid-ground. Debris present.
LINE	Predominant rolling hill leads eye to background mountains and mesas to the east.	Shrubs and cacti feathering upon landscape.	Large utility tower and high tension lines in mid-ground.

COLOR	Desert white- tan soil with green and brown dominate the landscape with some silver vegetation and yellow flowers. The variety of topography lends to browns and grays of mesas, hills, and mountains.	Green and browns of native trees, scrubs, and cacti. Background topographic features hover with browns and grays.	Large utility line and tower introduce silver to the mid-ground. Synthetic colors of red, yellow, blue dot the landscape where target shooters congregate.
TEXTURE	Terrain textures range from smooth to medium rough.	Mixture of cacti and native trees and shrubs vary in size and shape from being frail to healthy.	Smooth roadway s with some potholes.

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION			
	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Gentle rolling hills in foreground lead to open foreground. Bradshaw Mountains in background.	Scrubs and cacti	High tension wires and tower in mid-ground. Debris reduced greatly.
LINE	Predominant rolling hill leads eye to background mountains and mesas to the east.	Scrubs and cacti feathering on landscape	Large utility tower and high tension lines in mid-ground
COLOR	Desert white- tan soil with green and brown dominate the landscape with some silver vegetation and yellow flowers. The variety of topography lends to browns and grays of mesas, hills, and mountains.	Vegetation enhanced by project plans to contain target shooting and educating public to safe shooting areas.	Utility line and tower remain. Desert colors will predominate without chards of synthetic coloring due debris.

TEXTURE	Desert white- tan soil with green and brown dominate the landscape with some silver vegetation and yellow flowers. The variety of topography lends to browns and grays of mesas, hills, and mountains.	Remains the same.	Roadways smooth and maintained.

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING – LONG TERM – Degree of Contrast

Elements of Form, Line, Color, and Texture for Land/Water Body

Form = moderate

Line = strong

Color = moderate

Texture = strong

Elements of Form, Line, Color, and Texture for Vegetation

Form = moderate

Line = moderate

Color = moderate

Texture = moderate

There are no structures.

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? Yes

Project plan will enhance visual resource management objectives through education, engineering, and enforcement that will help public land users to make informed decisions and become stewards of the land.

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended? Yes

The proposed plan would improve visual resources management by providing for additional law enforcement support and additional citizen groups to work together and to foster care of the area.

APPENDIX G: DESERT TORTOISE POLICY AND MITIGATION

In 1988 the strategic plan, *Desert Tortoise Habitat Management on Public Lands: A Rangewide Plan* (Rangewide Plan) was signed by the BLM Director. The Rangewide Plan set the stage for BLM management priorities for the species to this day. Under this strategy, goals and criteria for habitat categories were used by BLM States to categorize all desert tortoise habitats on public lands. BLM committed to maintaining viable tortoise populations in Category I and II habitats. The plan also established a policy as follows: "Where practicable, allow no net loss in quantity or quality of important [Category I and II] desert tortoise habitats." In order to achieve this "no net loss" mandate adequate assessments of impacts of proposed actions were necessary in the NEPA process and adherence to all aspects of the definition of mitigation in the CEQ guidelines were needed (40CFR 1508.20).

In 1991, the Desert Tortoise Management Oversight Group, consisting of BLM, Fish and Wildlife Service, and State wildlife management agency representatives from Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and California, approved and signed the report, *Compensation For The Desert Tortoise,* a key component of the Rangewide Plan. IM No. AZ-91-16, *Strategy for Desert Tortoise Habitat Management on Public Lands in Arizona* set the stage for Arizona BLM's implementation of the Rangewide Plan. On July 13, 1992, the *Strategy for Desert Tortoise Habitat Management on Public Lands in Arizona -- New Guidance on Compensation for the Desert Tortoise* (Compensation Report) was issued as IM No. AZ-92-46. This guidance was followed by IM No. AZ-96-007, *Desert Tortoise Mitigation Policy,* and IM No. AZ-99-008, *Supplemental Guidance for Desert Tortoise Compensation*. IM No. 2008-204 was released in September, 2008, broadening earlier BLM guidance on off-site mitigation (compensation) including in-kind, out-of-kind, and in-lieu fee. This Arizona guidance dovetails with the above Washington Office guidance. In March 2009, IM AZ-2009-010, *Desert Tortoise Mitigation Policy,* was released which updated existing desert tortoise mitigation policies for Arizona.

Miles of Closed routes (10 ft wide) in desert tortoise habitat (TH)

22B 0.485 + 0.137

22C 0.151

22AA 0.1

277A 0.116

19K 0.226

17A 0.247 + 0.183

17B 0.127

16N 0.604

11E 0.38

11D 0.388

11C 0.384

12N 0.16 + 0.267

3.955 miles

3.955 miles x 5280 ft/mile x 10 ft wide = horyza

215,424 sq ft @ 44,560 sq ft/acres = 4.686 acres TH reclaimed

All remaining closed routes (10 ft wide) <u>not included above (not in TH)</u>

21.62 miles (from spreadsheet) = 1,141,536 sq ft = 25.618 acres non-TH reclaimed

New quad/4 WD routes 10-ft wide in TH

#5 0.828 Doe peak loop

#1 0.956 Rock Springs connection

1.784 miles (94,195 sq ft) = 2.114 acres

New motorcycle routes (from spreadsheet) 3 ft wide in TH

3.55 miles (1/2 of #25) (56,232 sq ft) = 1.262 acres

New non-motorized routes (from spreadsheet) 3 ft wide in TH

#26 5.3 miles (83,952 sq ft) = 1.884 acres

Total new disturbance <u>in</u> TH = 5.26 acres

New quad/4 WD routes 10 ft wide <u>not included above (not in TH)</u>

4.0 miles (211,200 sq ft) = 4.74 acres

New motorcycle and non-motorized routes 3 ft wide <u>not included above (not in TH)</u>

3.55 (other ½ of #25) (46,232 sq ft) + 1.84 (HS Bar) (29,146 sq ft) = 5.39 miles (85378 sq ft) = 1.916 acres

Total new disturbance <u>not</u> in TH = 6.656 acres

25.618 acres non-TH closed – 6.656 acres non-TH new = 18.962 acres net non-TH reclaimed

Tortoise Residual Impacts and Compensation Formula

C + T + E + G + A = Compensation Rate applied to acres of new impact

2 + 1 + 1 + 0.5 + 0 = 4.5

C = Habitat Category

T = Term of Effect, Short Term (< 10 years) = 0, Long Term (> 10 years) = 1

E = Existing Disturbance, Moderate to Heavy = 0, Little or No = 1

G = Growth Inducing, Likely = 0.5, Not Likely = 0

A = Adjacent Habitat Impacts, Affected = 0.5, Not Affected = 0

5.26 acres new disturbance in tortoise habitat

4.686 acres tortoise habitat reclaimed

4.5 compensation rate X 5.26 acres new TH disturbance = 23.67 acres TH replacement needed

23.67 acres TH replacement needed – 4.686 acres TH reclaimed = 18.984 acres TH still needed

44,560 square feet/acre

5,280 feet/mile X 10 foot average width of roads reclaimed =

52,800 square feet/mile of road/43,560 square feet/acre = 1.21 miles 10 foot wide road/acre

18.984 acres TH needed / 1.21 acres/mile of road = 15.689 miles of road closures needed in TH for compensation

Total reclamation, both TH and non-TH = 4.686 acres TH + 25.618 acres non-TH = 30.304 acres

Total new disturbance, both TH and non-TH = 5.26 acres TH + 6.656 acres non-TH = 11.916 acres new disturbance

Net reduction in disturbed lands of 18.388 acres

	Closed Routes not TH		New Routes not TH		Closed Routes TH		New Routes TH	
	Miles	Acres	Miles	Acres	Miles	Acres	Miles	Acres
Roads ~10' wide	21.62	25.618	4.0	4.74	3.955	4.686	1.784	2.114
Motorized Trails ~3' wide			3.55	1.262			3.55	1.262
NonMotorized Trails ~3'			1.84	0.654			5.3	1.884
Totals		25.618		6.656		4.686		5.26

TH = Tortoise Habitat

Mitigation Needs:

1. 18.984 acres of Category 2 Tortoise Habitat needs to be reclaimed to offset the losses associated with new route construction proposed in the Table Mesa area. At 1.21 acres/mile of road, 15.689 miles of 10 foot wide roads need to be closed (in addition to the 3.955 miles proposed for closure in the Table Mesa area) and reclaimed to meet the compensation requirement in the tortoise policy. This mitigation could be conducted off site but should be clearly documented.
2. Prior to construction of new vehicle routes, the alignment must be cleared of desert tortoises. Any tortoises found in the road path should be carefully moved out of the path and released unharmed. All tortoise sheltersites in the path must be examined and once verified empty, rendered unusable, or avoided.
3. Route construction should be conducted in the fall to avoid potential destruction of active migratory bird nests.