

BLM and SPRNCA Planning Team Members

- **Karen Simms, Assistant Field Manager**
- **Jim Mahoney, Outdoor Recreation Planner**
- **Ben Lomeli, Hydrologist**
- **Linda Dunlavey, Realty Specialist**
- **Amy Markstein, Assistant Planner**
- **Amy Sobiech, Archaeologist**
- **Jeff Simms, Fisheries Biologist**
- **Eric Baker, Rangeland Specialist**
- **Marcia Radke, Wildlife Biologist**
- **Leslie Uhr, GIS Specialist**

**Bureau of Land Management
Tucson Field Office**

**San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area
(SPRNCA)**

Resource Management Plan (RMP)



San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA)

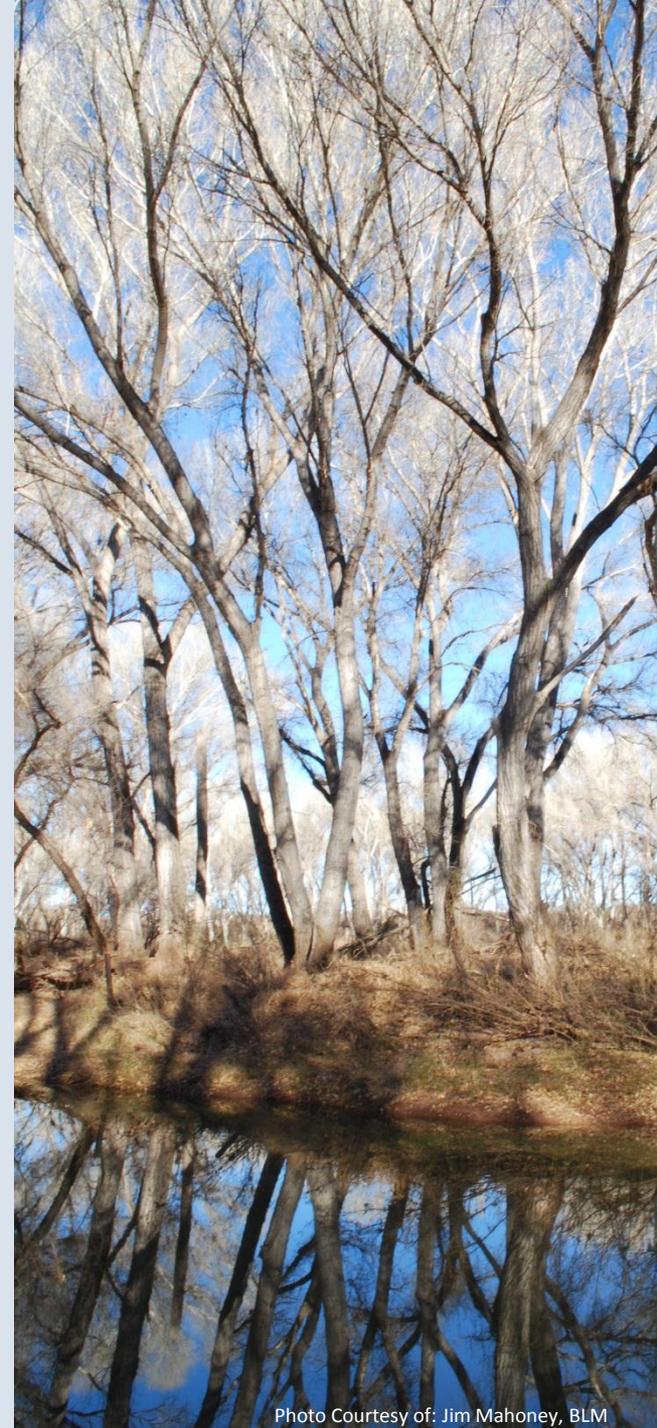
Designated by Congress in 1988:

“To conserve, protect and enhance the riparian area and the aquatic, wildlife, archeological, paleontological, scientific, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the conservation area.”



What is an RMP?

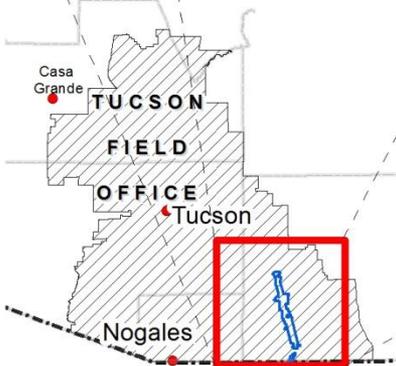
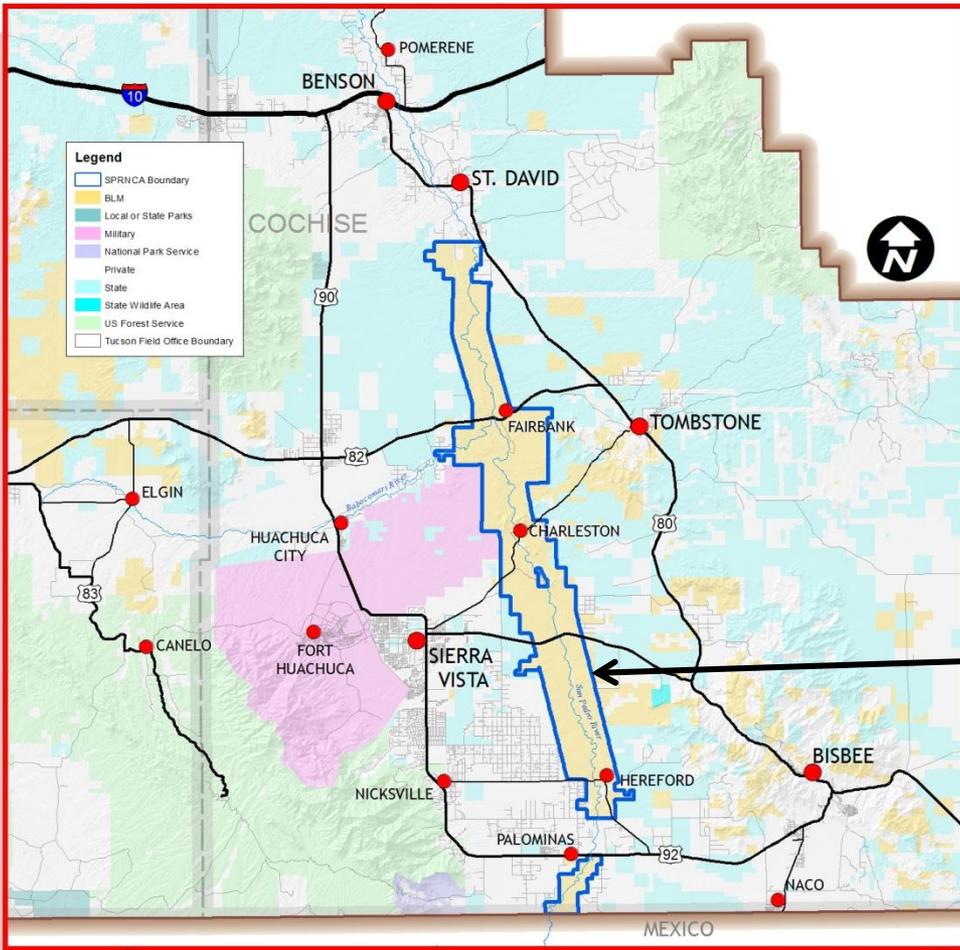
- A set of comprehensive decisions that:
 - Establishes goals and objectives
 - Identifies lands that are open or closed for certain uses
 - Makes special designations



Planning Area

Focused on the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA)

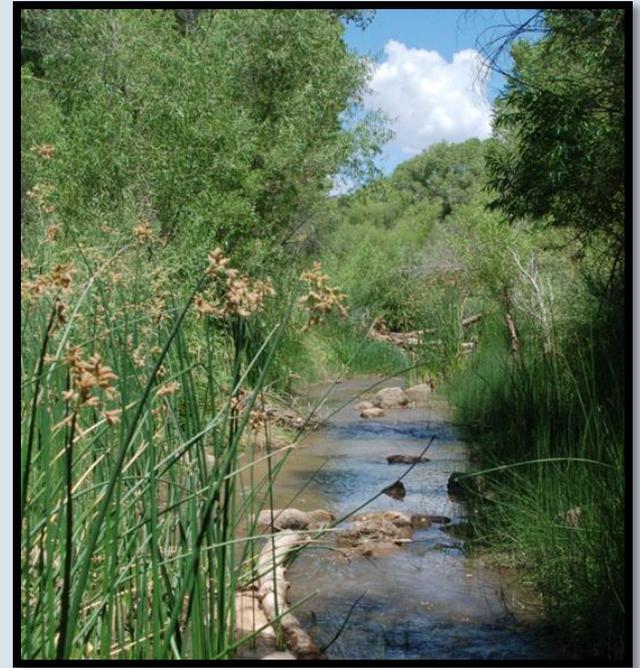
The planning area boundary is an issue that will be considered during scoping



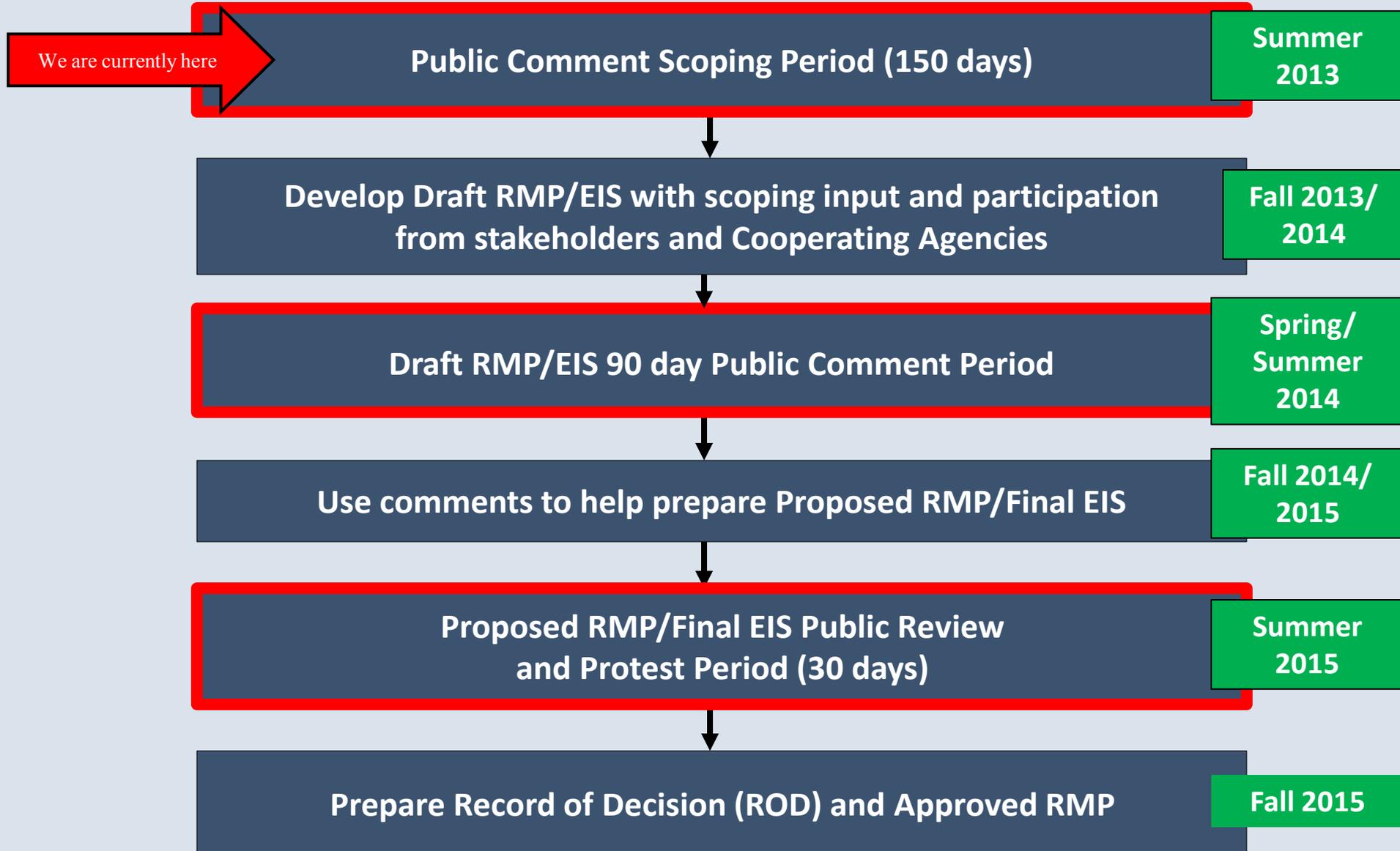
SAN PEDRO
RIPARIAN
NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
AREA
LOCATION MAP

BLM Planning Preparation Work

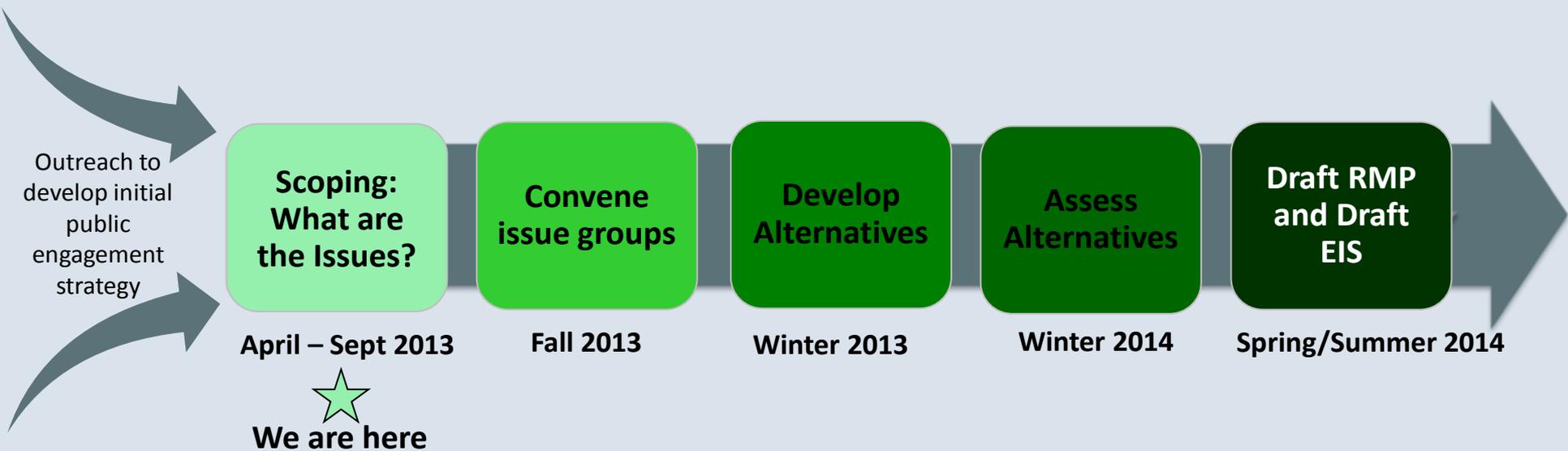
- Assess current decisions for SPRNCA resources
 - Identify areas for improvement
- Update resource assessments and inventories
- Compile studies and data to summarize current condition of the resource
- Summarize findings into a report
- Invite Tribal, Federal, State, and local governments to be Cooperating Agencies



Overview of the Planning Process



San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area RMP Process Phase 1 (Scoping to Draft RMP/EIS)



What is Scoping?

- Process to identify issues
 - Problems, concerns, or opportunities about the SPRNCA, its resources or uses
- Helpful comments:
 - Apply to BLM lands
 - Within BLM's decision authority
 - Help to define:
 - A range of desired conditions
 - Allocations
 - Strategies for implementation
 - Special designations



Scoping Comments

Scoping comments define the issues, and issues define the RMP!

All comments are sorted into three categories

- Can be dealt with in RMP (substantive)
- Can be dealt with administratively
- Outside of scope of the project *or* addressed in the implementation plan (following the RMP)

Only substantive comments can be dealt with in the RMP



Examples

- Can be dealt with in RMP (substantive)

- *Restrict or prohibit OHV use in washes and riparian areas.*
- *Consider water quality, watershed condition, bank conditions and shearing when considering the biological impacts from grazing.*

- Can be dealt with administratively

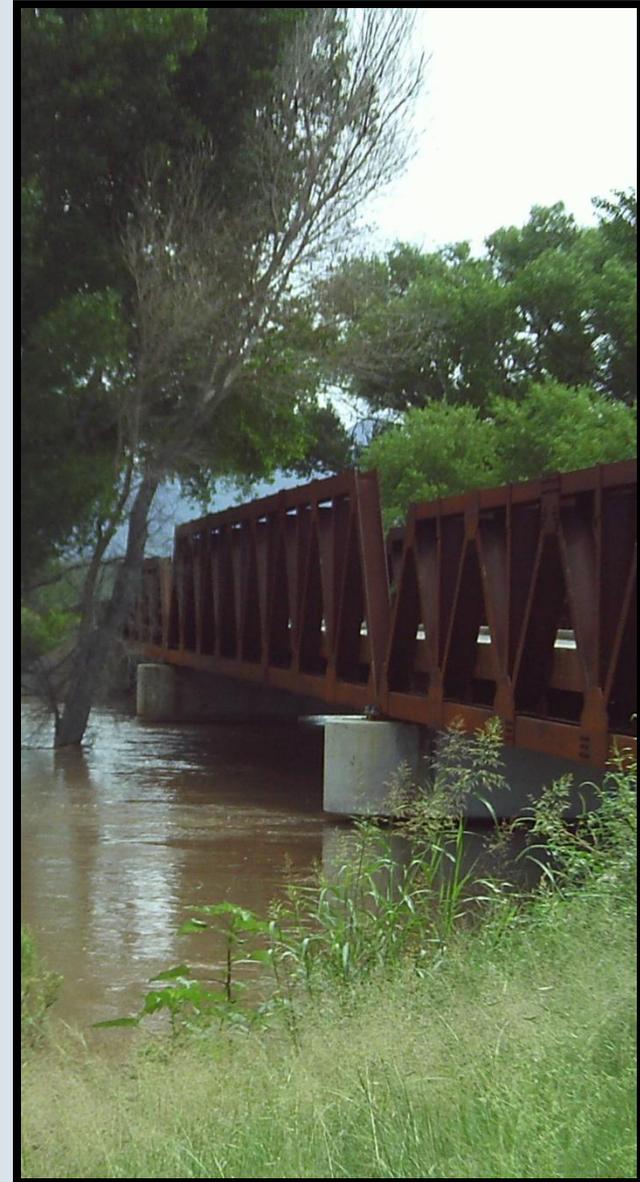
- *I want to be a volunteer to fix this area.*
- *I want to ensure that I can maintain my right-of-way.*

- Outside of scope of the project

- *I am opposed to ATVs.*
- *I believe that the Luke Air force base should be closed.*

What happens to scoping comments?

- BLM will review and consider all the comments received and place into appropriate categories
- BLM will use substantive comments to refine planning issues
- The planning issues, generated from scoping comments will be used to develop the range of alternatives in the RMP



Decision Space

- Cannot address the National Conservation Area boundary adjustments or proposals to change Public Law 100-696.
- Must meet requirements of Public Law 100-696 for all federal lands within the SPRNCA
- BLM must comply with existing laws, regulations, and BLM policies such as NEPA, FLPMA, and the Endangered Species Act
- The RMP will recognize Arizona Game and Fish Department's authority to manage wildlife



PUBLIC COMMENT/ REGISTRATION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management – Arizona

- Intentionally Left Blank – For Official Use Only -

PLEASE LEAVE COMMENTS AT THE MEETING REGISTRATION TABLE

Or Send To: BLM Tucson Field Office, 3201 E. Universal Way,
Tucson AZ 85756
Attn: Amy Markstein

Please Read Carefully

Comments, including names, street addresses, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers of respondents will be available for public review at the BLM during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) Monday through Friday, except holidays. **Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name, address, phone number or e-mail address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must check the box below and initial the statement at the beginning of your comments.** Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Organization (if any) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____

Public Disclosure: I request confidentiality to the extent allowed by law. Initial: _____

Comments:

Submitting comments after today

Comments can be submitted until
September 27th by:

Fax: (520) 258-7238

Email: blm_az_tfo_sprnca_rmp@blm.gov

Mail: Amy Markstein, BLM Tucson Field Office,
3201 E. Universal Way, Tucson AZ 85756



Issue Areas

- **Water Resources (Surface and Groundwater)**
- **Land Health (Uplands and Watershed Function)**
- **Riparian Areas, Floodplains, Wetlands, Aquatic Habitats**
- **Livestock Grazing**



Climate Change



- New guidance suggests:
 - Climate change must be considered in planning
- Considered as part of the baseline condition
 - Some limits of certainty
- Plan for ecosystem resilience to the predicted effects of climate change
- Analysis to the extent to which the climate change information is needed to make planning decisions
 - Level of information that is available.

Watershed in the Upper San Pedro Basin

- Proper watershed function in the uplands is imperative to the proper functioning condition of the San Pedro River
- A healthy cover of vegetation:
 - Stabilizes the soil
 - Slows surface runoff
 - Increases infiltration and natural groundwater recharge
 - Provides greater quantity and improved quality of water to the San Pedro River



RMP Decisions: Watershed Management

Identify:

- Desired Future Conditions
- Watersheds or soils that need special protection
- Area-wide use restrictions to meet water quality standards
- Measures to ensure water availability for multiple use management and functioning healthy systems

Rangeland and Range Management in the Upper San Pedro Basin

- Most of the SPRNCA has been closed to livestock grazing since 1989
- There are four active allotments: 6,521 acres
- Allotments are associated with scattered parcels of BLM land adjacent to the SPRNCA



RMP Decisions: Range

- Identify lands available or not available to livestock grazing.
Considering the following factors:
 - Terrain, soil, vegetation, and watershed characteristics
 - Presence of other resources that might need special protection
 - Presence of undesirable vegetation
- For lands available to grazing, identify:
 - **Amount of forage available** with full implementation of the plan and allowing for a balance with other resource uses
- RMP must include grazing management practices to reach desired future conditions. Such as:
 - Grazing systems
 - Range improvements (including land treatments)
 - Changes in seasons of use and/or stocking rates

QUESTIONS?

